おまつり
高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

ZERO-SUM COMICS 既刊好評発売中

A5判

星のズンダコタ	全2巻	ひらのあゆ
アニメ店長B' 店長候補生	①-②	真崎はるか
ストレンジ・プラス	①-⑤	美川べるの
最遊記RELOAD	①-⑥	峰倉かずや
最遊記	全9巻	峰倉かずや
最遊記外伝	①-②	峰倉かずや

B6判

Caplicious Bullet	全1巻	浅田やすか
07-GHOST	①	原作 高殿円 ゆき哉 漫画 雅乃
コーセルテルの竜術士物語	①-③	石動あゆま
DAWN〜冷たい手	①-③	上田 信舟
破天荒遊戯	①-⑧	遠藤 海成
Weiß Side B	①-⑤	大暮維人 シュウマユコ 原作 子安秀明
SOUL GADGET RADIANT	①-②	大森 葵
Landreaall	①-⑦	おがきちか
エピアンワンダー	全2巻	おがきちか
エピアンワンダーREACT	①	おがきちか
嵐雪記	①-⑤	片山 愁
バンパイアドール・ギルナザン	①-③	雁 えりか
ロスト〜異界の獣たち〜	①	川添真理子 原作 中村幸子
LOVELESS	①-⑥	高河 ゆん
超獣伝説ゲシュタルト	①-⑥	高河 ゆん
ASB—封魔九星伝—	全5巻	小杉 蘭
Gemeinschaft	①-③	佐伯弥四郎
DEATH SCYTHE 悪神狩り	全3巻	沢田 翔
アニメ店長	①-②	島本 和彦
魔界戦記ディスガイア	全1巻	神堂あらし
MAGiMAGi	全2巻	鈴木 次郎
CYNTHIA_THE_MISSION	①-②	高遠 るい
あまつき	①-③	高山しのぶ
そにょもにょ	①	たつねこ
鉄壱智	①-②	なるしまゆり
あにふぁみ!	①	南京ぐれ子
DOLLS	①	naked ape
ゼノサーガ EPISODE I	①-②	原作 monolith 漫画 (株)ナムコ
Magicol×Miracle	全6巻	水谷 悠珠
魔法騎士養成専門 マジック★スター学院	全5巻	南澤 久佳
魔法騎士養成専門 マジックスター学院★★★	①	南澤 久佳
BUS GAMER THE PILOT EDITION	全1巻	峰倉かずや
拝み屋横丁顧末記	①-⑥	宮本 福助
ミラクルで行こう!	全1巻	もりむらせん太
夢路行全集	全5巻	夢路 行
光	全4巻	凜野 ミキ
クラブクライム	全3巻	凜野 ミキ
不機嫌な名探偵division-Ø	全1巻	渡辺 瑞樹

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雑誌 50634-71

定価：本体552円＋税

一迅社

1929979005528

あまつき 3

高山しのぶ

エロ

一迅社

COMMENT

高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

いつの間にか二巻です。
早いなぁと思いながら、
収録初回の話はずいぶん遠い気もします。
描き切れずになりました。

あまつき 3

高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

あまつき

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僕のスノダコタ	全2巻	ひらの亜佑
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Web3 Side B	①-③	ま が ち な ぷ る
SOUL GADGET RADIANT	①-②	大河 駆
Loneliness0	①-⑦	おがさちか
エビアノフンダー	全2巻	おがさちか
エビアノフンダー-REACT	①	おがさちか
地獄図	①-③	片山 憲
バンパイアドール ギルナザン	①-③	憲 えりか
ロスト～神無月の巫女～	①	山 き 鳥 夏
LOVELESS	①-④	高河 ゆん
創聖伝説ダンジュタルト	①-④	高河 ゆん
A路	全5巻	小七
Camomile	①-⑤	茶倉RIKO
DEATH SCYTHE 鎌鼬狩り	全3巻	天花
アニメ図書	①-②	墓本 和郎
異界戦記ディスガイア	全1巻	神堂寿らじ
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あにおみ/	①	南沢くれテ
DOLLS	①	[illegible]
ゼノサーガ EPISODE I	①-②	[illegible]
Magical Mirocle	全6巻	水谷 遠藤
図書マジック★スター学院	全3巻	遠藤 久信
図書マジックスター学院★★★	①	南澤 久信
BLIS GAMER	全1巻	峰倉かずや
界み図書「図書記	①-②	富本 遠藤
ミックルで行こう/	全1巻	ちひひち弘太
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グラブファイム	全3巻	遠野 ミキ
不機嫌なる探偵 division-2	全1巻	遠辺 遠藤

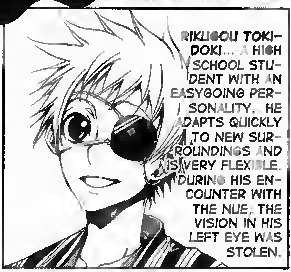
Amatsuki 03

あまつき 三

高山しのぶ
Shinobu Takayama

Characters

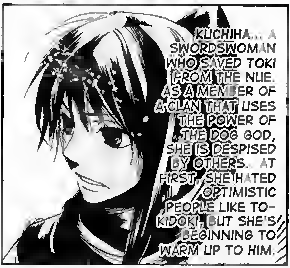
SHINONOME KON... COOL-HEADED AND LOGICAL, HE CAME TO THE OTHER WORLD BEFORE TOKIDOKI AND NOW ACTS AS HIS MENTOR. HE LOST THE SENSATION IN HIS LEFT ARM TO THE NUE.



RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI... A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH AN EASYGOING PERSONALITY. HE ADAPTS QUICKLY TO NEW SURROUNDINGS AND IS VERY FLEXIBLE. DURING HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE NUE, THE VISION IN HIS LEFT EYE WAS STOLEN.

SHINSHU... GINSHU'S YOUNGER SISTER. SHE IS GOING WITH TOKIDOKI TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK GINSHU'S CURSE.

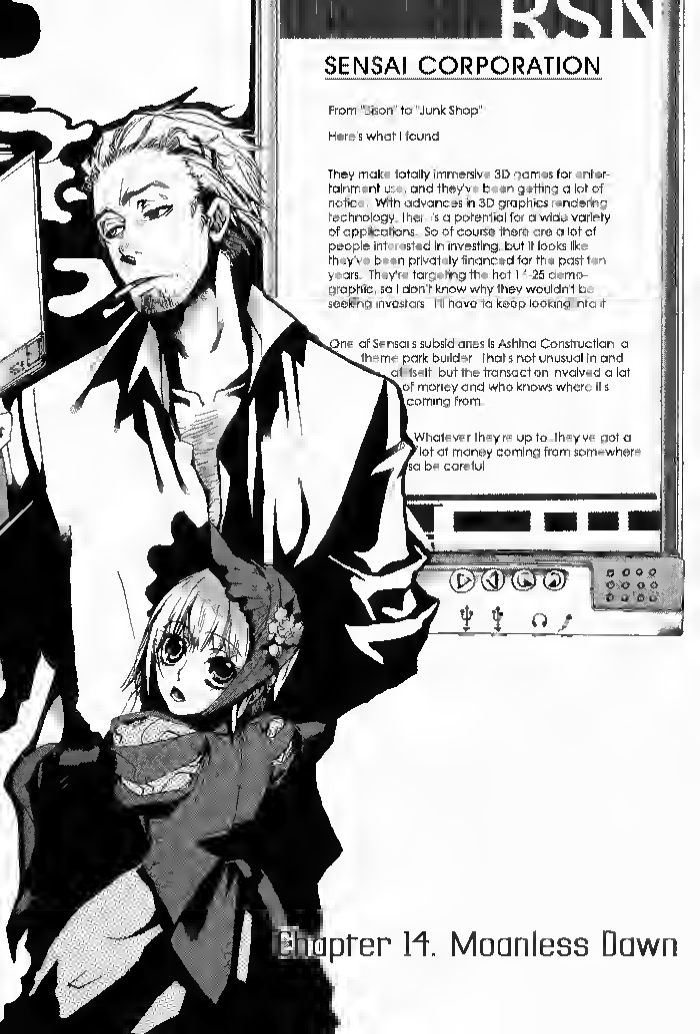
BONTEN... A DEMON WITH GREAT POWER AND THE ABILITY TO READ FATE. HE IS ONE OF THE FOUR HOLY ONES.



KUCHIHA... A SWORDSWOMAN WHO SAVED TOKI FROM THE NUE. AS A MEMBER OF A CLAN THAT USES THE POWER OF THE DOG GOD, SHE IS DESPISED BY OTHERS. AT FIRST, SHE HATED OPTIMISTIC PEOPLE LIKE TOKIDOKI, BUT SHE'S BEGINNING TO WARM UP TO HIM.

REC UP

WHILE VISITING A HIGH-TECH VIRTUAL REALITY EXHIBIT ON THE EDO/BAKUMATSU PERIOD, TOKIDOKI WAS ATTACKED BY TWO SUPERNATURAL CREATURES CALLED THE "THE NUE" AND "THE YAKOU", AND FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED IN VIRTUAL EDO. WITH NO CLUE HOW TO GET BACK TO HIS WORLD, TOKIDOKI CAME TO RELY ON KON AND KUCHIHA, AND GRADUALLY BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO HIS NEW HOME. ONE DAY, A GOVERNEMENT OFFICIAL, SASAKI TADAJIROU, TOLD HIM THAT "SOMEONE" WANTED TO MEET HIM. SO ALONE WITH KON AND KUCHIHA, TOKIDOKI FOLLOWED SASAKI. BUT THEN, TOKI WAS SUCKED INTO A STRANGE DIMENSION WHERE HE MET THE DEMON BONTEN, WHO GAVE HIM TWO CHOICES - TO BECOME THE DESTROYER OF THE AMATSUKI, OR TO BECOME ITS MASTER. WHEN TOKIDOKI AWOKE, HE WAS IN THE SHIGAMI SHRINE, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR DEMON EXTERMINATION. THERE HE WAS REUNITED WITH KON AND THE OTHERS, AND HE MET THE HIGH PRIESTESS GINSHU, WHO BEGGED HIM TO LEND HER HIS POWER. AT THE REQUEST OF GINSHU'S YOUNGER SISTER, SHINSHU, TO HELP BREAK GINSHU'S CURSE, TOKIDOKI ASKED FOR HELP FROM BONTEN. GIVEN THE HINT "A FOX CRIES AT NIHONBASHI," TOKIDOKI DECIDED TO GO TO NIHONBASHI. NOW, TOKIDOKI WILL SOON REUNITE WITH HIS FRIEND HEIHACHI, AND THE DEMON TSUYUKUSA.....


RSN
SENSAI CORPORATION
From "Sion" to "Junk Shop"
Here's what I found
They make totally immersive 3D games for entertainment use, and they've been getting a lot of notice. With advances in 3D graphics rendering technology, there's a potential for a wide variety of applications. So of course there are a lot of people interested in investing, but it looks like they've been privately financed for the past ten years. They're targeting the hot 14-25 demographic, so I don't know why they wouldn't be seeking investors. I'll have to keep looking into it.
One of Sensai's subsidiaries is Ashina Construction, a theme park builder. That's not unusual in and of itself, but the transaction involved a lot of money and who knows where it's coming from.
Whatever they're up to...they've got a lot of money coming from somewhere, so be careful.

Chapter 14. Moonless Dawn

HASHITA-SAN!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
OOOH?
SORRY, I DONT UNDER-STAND JAPA-NESE!
ARE YOU TRYING TO MESS WITH ME, YOU OLD FART ...!?
GRRR
GRRRRR
You should be ashamed!! And in front of a child!!!
You should be kind to foreign-ers!! How cruel!!

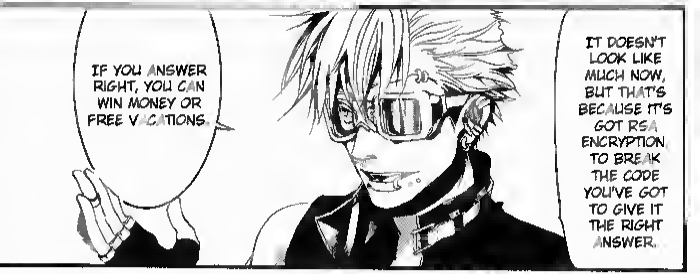
I'VE REALLY GOTTA GET LIFE INSURANCE...
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY!
shake
shake
MY MINIDISC PLAYER, MY PAGER, MY VINTAGE 1989-MODEL VENDING MACHINE!
DO YOU KNOW THE PERSONAL VALUE OF THAT STUFF TO ME!?
laugh
THERE THEY GO AGAIN...
YOU IDIOT!!!

AND I'LL CRUSH SOMETHING DEAR TO YOU
MAKE ANOTHER SOUND...
SFX: -CRACKLE-

AS I WAS SAYING...
I DOUBT WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET IN PERSON.
.....
What's that?
shiver
shiver
NOT AGAIN... YOU TWO NEVER QUIT.
So crude...
BUT THESE DAYS, COMPANIES ARE PUTTING A LOT OF EFFORT INTO FIGHTING CYBERATTACKS.
YES, DESPITE APPEARANCES, I'M SURE THEY ARE AS WELL.
WHILE PLAYING INNOCENT

I'VE GOT THEIR CORPORATE FINANCIAL RECORDS RIGHT HERE
AND I COULD BRING THEIR SYSTEMS DOWN WITH A VIRUS
WELL, THAT'S AN OPTION
THEY'D CERTAINLY BE SHOCKED THAT WE HAD FOUND THEM OUT...
YEAH, BUT THAT APPROACH IS KIND OF CRUDE...
AND LACKING IN STYLE, ISN'T IT?
Like a hitman or something?
THAT'S WHY WE'D BE DISCREET, HASHITA-SAN. JUST LIKE THEM.
AFTER ALL, IF THEY HAVE WAKASA-SAN'S CLIENT LIST, YOU COULD BE TARGETED TOO, RIGHT?

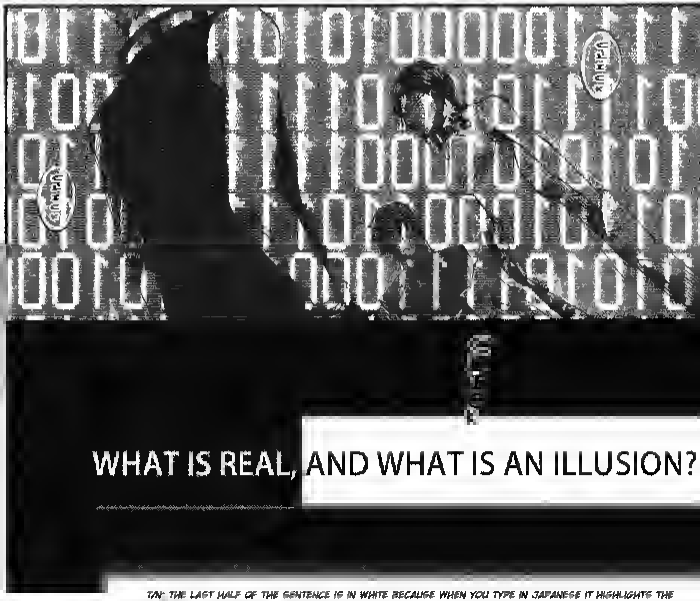
...DEEP DOWN, THEY'RE THE SAME...
SIGH
SS!
GIVE ME BACK MY WASHING MACHINE AND DRYER !!!
SHUT UP!!
I DON'T EVEN KEEP A LIST, YOU IDIOT!
SO YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
WHAT!!?
THEY'RE AFTER ME AND I HAVE TO HIDE AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
AND OUR WORK IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE
NONE OF YOU GET DINNER UNTIL THIS IS OVER.
OF COURSE!
TIME IS MONEY, YOU KNOW!?
NEE-SAN, SHALL WE CONTINUE?
I'LL CRUSH THEM WITH MY SHOE.
AND IF YOU KEEP INTERUPPTING...


IF YOU ANSWER RIGHT, YOU CAN WIN MONEY OR FREE VACATIONS.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH NOW, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S GOT RSA ENCRYPTION TO BREAK THE CODE YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT THE RIGHT ANSWER.

T/N: RSA IS A TYPE OF PUBLIC KEY ENCRYPTION THAT ALLOWS PRIVATE DATA TO BE SHARED ON INSECURE CHANNELS LIKE THE INTERNET WITH LESS RISK.

"THE WORLD IS DIVIDED INTO TWO HALVES..."
WHAT, LIKE MEN AND WOMEN?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
I'D SAY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE
WHAT!?
WHY ARE THEY GIVING AWAY FREE TRASH? IS IT SOME KIND OF MARKETING CAMPAIGN?
SOUNDS STUPID
I DUNNO WHAT IT'S ABOUT...
THE QUESTION IS THE KEY
click click
IT JUST KEEPS SHOWING THE SAME THING...
I GUESS THE ANSWER VARIES DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ASK
Whatever. It's hopeless.
Hashi-ta-san you're no help
HARDWARE IS THE PHYSICAL OBJECT, AND SOFTWARE IS THE INFORMATION ON IT
IF MY ANSWER IS RIGHT, WE'LL GET TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL!
Like, if the world was a manga
Then the paper would be the "hardware" and the drawings would be the "software."

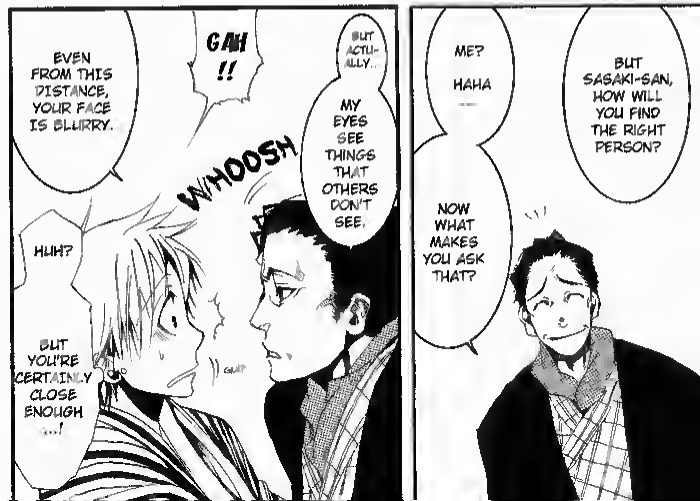
THIS IS A PAIN IN THE ASS.
ARE GAMES LIKE THESE ACTUALLY POPULAR?
YEAH, WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.
WELL.....
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST AN OLD FART, HISHITA-SAN.
THE QUES-TION IS IN-TERESTING IN A ZEN SORT OF WAY, ISN'T IT?
JUST FORGET IT I'M SICK OF THIS.
WHATEVER LITTLE LOT-TERY BUSI-NESS THEY HAVE GOING, I DON'T CARE
I JUST WANT THE DATA SO WE CAN BE DONE WITH THIS!
WELL, THERE'RE PEOPLE PLAYING THIS GAME, SO...
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WINNER
PEOPLE GET SUCKED INTO THESE THINGS.
WHO...? WAIT, WE DON'T KNOW WHO WON?
WE'LL HAVE TO GATHER INFORMATION
If there's any money left I want it!
shake
shake



TN: THE LAST HALF OF THE SENTENCE IS IN WHITE BECAUSE WHEN YOU TYPE IN JAPANESE IT HIGHLIGHTS THE STUFF YOU'RE TYPING NOW. SO I GUESS THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IS THE BLINKING "I" AT THE END OF THE LINE.

WAAAAI!!
YOU WERE SO COOL JUST NOW! I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!!
B... BEST OF LUCK?
nervous laugh
...AHAHA...
OH, AND
Eu Eu did you just take it back?
Um, yeah, I've got my clothes here and all.
YOU DON'T THINK I'M LIKE A STALKER, DO YOU...?
CREEPY
OH NO, NOT AT ALL...
HUH?
WHY?
WELL, NOW THAT EVERYONE'S BEEN INTRODUCED, I THINK I OUGHT TO GET GOING... IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU...

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD HELP.
HUH ?
HAHA, BUT SINCE IT SEEMS THAT YOU CAN'T HELP US, THEN I'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
GINSHU-SAN'S CONDITION IS DETERIO-RATING...
IT USED TO BE RARE THAT YOU WOULD SEE A DEMON.
BUT I GUESS OUR BEST EFFORTS JUST AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.


BUT SASAKI-SAN, HOW WILL YOU FIND THE RIGHT PERSON?
ME? HAHA
NOW WHAT MAKES YOU ASK THAT?
BUT ACTU-ALLY...
MY EYES SEE THINGS THAT OTHERS DON'T SEE.
GAH !!
WHOOSH
EVEN FROM THIS DISTANCE, YOUR FACE IS BLURRY.
HUH?
BUT YOU'RE CERTAIN-LY CLOSE ENOUGH ...!

GIVE UP...
YOUR OWN...
!
THE ABILITY TO SENSE DEMONS, FOR INSTANCE.
IF YOU GIVE UP YOUR SENSE OF SIGHT, YOUR OTHER SENSES BECOME MUCH STRONGER.
YOU'RE VERY KIND...
I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD GIVE UP ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE.
NO, I'M JUST...
YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE SOMETHING.
IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN SOMETHING...

I'M SORRY THAT I'M THE OPPOSITE.
IT'S HARD TO TRUST SOMEONE AS SHADY AS ME.
BUT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TENGU.
YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ.

BUT... I THINK I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER TO ENSURE THAT SHE DOESN'T BECOME A SACRIFICE.
IT'S NOT THAT I THINK YOU'LL HAND SHINSHU-SAN OVER TO THEM...

AT HEART, PEOPLE ARE...
GREEDY AND SELF-CENTERED...
I LIKE PEOPLE LIKE THAT
I WANTED TO BE A BETTER PERSON
I WANTED TO BE KIND... I WANTED TO BE HONEST...
BUT...
THEN...

.....

...WELL TAKE CARE, THEN.
.....

I USED TO NOT BE ABLE TO TRUST ANYONE

SO I LIKE EVERY-BODY.
I THINK PEOPLE ARE BASICALLY GOOD, BUT SOMETIMES THEY GO BAD.
OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS...

THANKS.
TOKI...
WHEN YOU LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE HONEST EYES OF YOURS.
YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE IN ME...
IT'S LIKE I WANTED TO BE A BETTER PERSON

I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT...
PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST...
!!
YOU'RE MY...
BUT NOW
I THINK ABOUT HIS WORDS ALL THE TIME
LUCKY STAR.
SUOU——
....TOKI?

UMM... SORRY, I JUST GOT KIND OF LOST...

SURPRISE
NUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
UWAAAH!
HUH!?

It's spring, but it's still pretty cold at night.
COME IN!
WANT SOME TEA?
HEY.
WE WERE JUST HANGING OUT IN HERE.

WAH!
AHHHH-
HEY!
THU
MP
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU!?
NOTHING...
JUST FEELING KIND OF RUN DOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
LERGH!
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD YOUR HEAD UP.
nuke

BUT I'M JUST DRAGGING YOU GUYS DOWN...
!!!
HUH?
BUT YOU PUSH YOURSELF PAST YOUR LIMITS BECAUSE YOU WANNA HELP OTHER PEOPLE.
I DO STUFF BECAUSE I WANNA DO IT.
B... BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING DRAGGED INTO?
BECAUSE IF YOU WENT OFF ON YOUR OWN, THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY PISS ME OFF...
YEAH... YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF LEAVING ME BEHIND, WERE YOU?
GRRRRRRRRRR
I DUNNO, ARE YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID, YOU ASSHOLE?

THAT'S ENOUGH!
WE'RE LEAVING EARLY TOMORROW, SO GET SOME SLEEP!
HUH!?
WHAT?
SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
NO, NOT AT ALL!!

A GIRL SHARING A ROOM WITH TWO GUYS... ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER... IT COULD GET KIND OF AWKWARD...
IT'S JUST ...
YOU'RE SO WILD IN BED~
EVERYBODY WANTS YOU~
YOU BASTARD!
OOOH... TORI-KUN YOU'RE SUCH A PERVERT
GAAH
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY!
I'LL JUST GO!
FINE! IF YOU TWO WANT TO BE ALONE, THEN JUST SAY SO!!
RUNNING AWAY
I GUESS NEITHER OF YOU HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.
YOU GET ALL FLUSTERED...
This is T...
Uuuuu
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
Flap Flap

...YEAH, I GUESS NOT.
WELL, WHATEVER WE SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP
TOMORROW'S GONNA BE A LONG DAY
!!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
SO JUST RELAX.

.. OKAY.
RIGHT THEN
I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE.

THAT MY DECISION...
WOULD COME TO HAUNT ME...!!

TRANSLATION AMADAMA | TYPESETTING & COVER DESIGN ASHISLOVER | PHOTOSHOP 044

amatsuki 3

あまつき

takayama shinobu

高山しのぶ

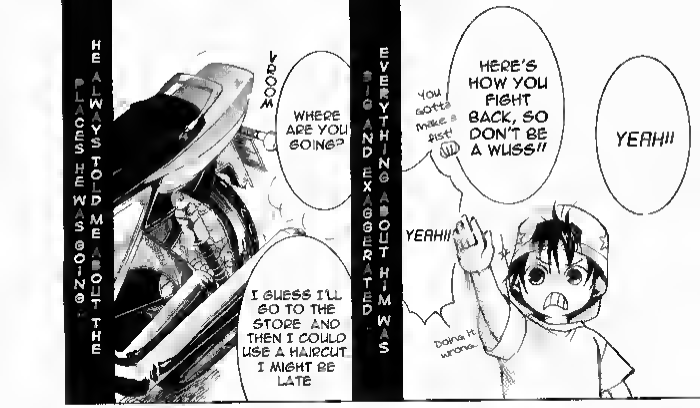
isbn 4-7580-5222-0

hana mi
WEBSITE
http://hana-mi.net

FORUM
http://nsoliterati.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=14

amatsuki_manga
LJ COMMUNITY
http://community.livejournal.com/amatsuki_manga

I'VE SAID IT ENOUGH, SO I'D THINK YOU'D GET IT BY NOW.
Chapter 15: Morning Storm
IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP, TOKI-DOKI.
GAAA
OKAY, TOKI-DOKI!
I'M GONNA DIE
I GIVE UP!
AAH
STAMBLE
STAMBLE
SQUEEZE
HUG
OKAY!!!
SO HANG ON TIGHT!!!
RIGHT? NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
THAT HAT'S A KEEP-SAKE.
SO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
VROOM
VROOM


HE ALWAYS TOLD ME ABOUT THE PLACES HE WAS GOING.
VROOM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I GUESS I'LL GO TO THE STORE AND THEN I COULD USE A HAIRCUT. I MIGHT BE LATE
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM WAS BIG AND EXAGGERATED.
HERE'S HOW YOU FIGHT BACK, SO DON'T BE A WUSS!!
You gotta make a fist!
YEAH!!
YEAH!!
Darn it wrong.

WE'RE HAVING OMELETTE RICE FOR DINNER!!
SEE YA!
AND HE WAS ALWAYS GIVING ME STUFF.
SFX: VROOM
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE ALWAYS HAD SOME WILD STORY TO GO ALONG WITH EVERY GIFT.
SHUT UP, YA LOUD-MOUTH BRAT!!!
YOU LOSER!!
TRIPLE LOSER!!!
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO COOK ANYTHING ELSE!!?

THAT WAS HOW THINGS WERE BACK THEN.
Toki-kun?
HUH?
YEAH?
SUOU WAS EVERY-THING TO ME.
SFX: -WIN- BLOWING-
AH...
DAMN IT...
WHY...
WHY COULD YOU NOT TRUST ME...!?

chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
SUCH
WAS THAT
JUST NOW...
HUH?
HUH?
SMASH
AHH——
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?

Chapter 15: Morning Storm

I GUESS YOU HAD A GOOD DREAM!!! MAYBE I'LL KICK YOU SO YOU WAKE UP NEXT TIME!!!
I AM SUCH A LOSER!! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!!
WAAAH! I'M SO SORRY!!
I TOTALLY OVER-SLEPT!!!

NOW GET DRESSED!!
DON'T GO RUNNING AROUND AND MAKING NOISE THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE!?

IT FEELS WEIRD, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
MY USUAL CLOTHES WOULD KIND OF STAND OUT...

HUH?
OH.
THIS...
HUUUH? TSURUME-SAN, AREN'T YOU GOING TO WEAR YOUR UNIFORM?

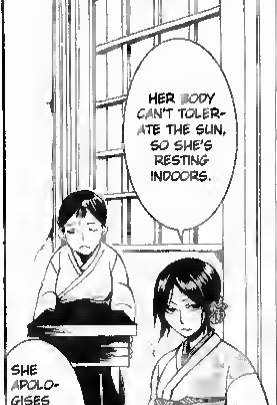
OH, I SEE.. WELL YOUR UNIFORM LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE CHILLY, ANYWAY, AND THAT OUTFIT REALLY SUITS YOU.
SHOCK
!?
!?
....YEAH.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU JERKS TALKING ABOUT!!?
HEY!
IF YOU WANNA SAY HOW BAD I LOOK, THEN JUST SAY IT!!!
NEVER MIND. .
YOU LIARS !!!
...
//
TOKI ~!!!
HEY!

!
WAH!
I GOT A NEW KIMONO TOO!
ISN'T IT PRETTY ?
HUH? OH, SHINSHU-CHAN, IT'S YOU!! GOOD MORNING!
YEAH!

/
nod
HEY, KUCHIHA GOOD MORNING!
//
nod
nod
MORNING

I'M GOING !!
um...
huff
!?
GAH!
TURN
BREAKFAST IS READY, SO PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES
HUH? WHERE'S GINSHU-SAN?
Thanks for the meal!

SHE SAID TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF SHINSHU.
...I WILL!


HER BODY CAN'T TOLERATE THE SUN, SO SHE'S RESTING INDOORS.
SHE APOLOGISES FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SEND YOU OFF.

EVERYTHING IS READY,
SO WE'LL LEAVE FROM THE FRONT GARDEN.
OKAY!

OH, AN OLD MAN LIKE ME CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU YOUNGSTERS!
I'M GOING TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM MY SUBORDINATES IN TOWN.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER ~♡

I'LL JOIN YOU LATER.
HUH? WE'RE NOT ALL GOING TOGETHER?
atana

HAHA HAHA
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING OLD, SASAKI-SAMA
QUIET, YOU.
HMPH, I SEE YOU WERE EAVES-DROPPING, KUROTOBI
YOU'RE AS BAD AS EVER, BUT SOMEHOW IT SUITS YOU
WERE YOU HITTING ON UNDER-AGE BOYS AGAIN?
HEH
SORRY, BUT THAT'S MY JOB.
BUT SPEAKING OF THAT ONE-EYED KID...
DOESN'T HE...
FIT INTO YOUR PLANS NICELY?
KURO-TOBI
I'D RATHER THAT YOU KEPT TO YOUR REPORTS INSTEAD OF GOSSIP
OR I'LL HAVE TO CUT YOUR TONGUE OUT.

OOOOH
I AM SO SCARED
FINE, FINE
YOU WANTED THE OLD MAN'S RECORDS, RIGHT?
PRETTY INTERESTING FOR SOME OLD BOOKSELLER'S JOURNAL
APPARENTLY, THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE HEADED TO NIHONBASHI IN SEARCH OF A STRANGE STORY.
WHAT?!
IT SAYS THAT ONE IS TOWNSPERSON, BUT THE OTHER WAS DRESSED ODDLY...

...AND THAT'S AN ORDER.
FOLLOW THEM.

SEE YA.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
AL-RIGHT!
I GUESS I'M GOOD TO GO
SHINO-NOME?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
?
SQUEEZE
OW!!
DAMN IT, THAT HURTS! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?

THAT WHEN YOU LEAVE SOMEONE, YOU'VE GOT TO HOPE THAT NEITHER OF YOU WILL GET SERIOUSLY HURT OR SOMETHING.
THERE YOU GO
?
TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR ME
MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME
SO I'LL DEFINITELY BE BACK FOR THIS
I PROMISE
!
ALRIGHT, GIVE IT TO ME
SHINONOME?
THAT HURT!!
I'M ALREADY SERIOUSLY HURT
AHA HA...
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT... IT'S A BAD HABIT
scratch
scratch

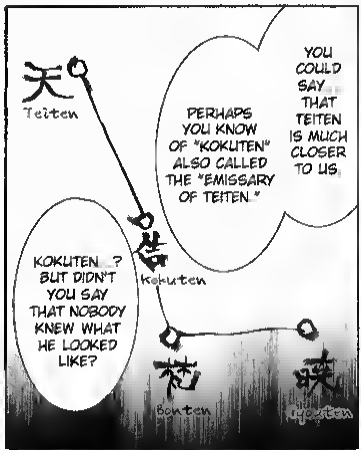
EVERY TIME YOU SAY GOODBYE, IT COULD BE THE LAST TIME. NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE.
COME BACK SOON.
OKAY.
...I WILL.
SO TREASURE THE ONES YOU LOVE.

IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE?
THERE THEY GO ...
I'M FINE.

I COULD WISH THEM FAREWELL.
AT LEAST..

THIS ISN'T A HOSTAGE EXCHANGE...
WHY DID YOU STAY BEHIND?
!
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...
EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE, YOU'VE BEEN HIDING SOMETHING
AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU THAT YOU WERE A CLEVER ONE
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW? IT'S JUST YOU AND I, SO FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANYTHING.
...IS THAT SO...?
Laugh
Laugh

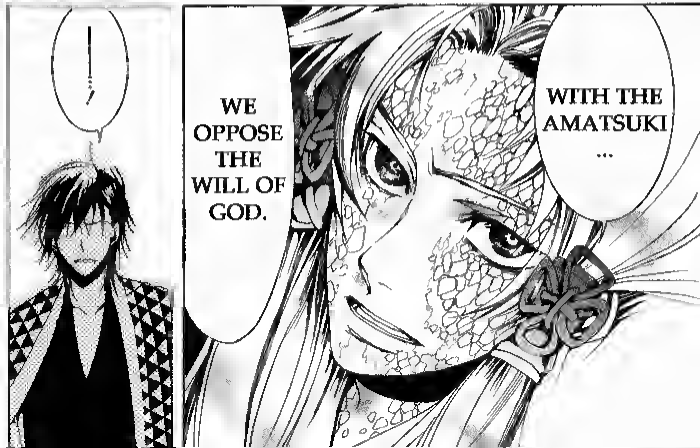
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK HIM FROM THE BEGINNING TO HELP BREAK YOUR CURSE?
OKAY, THEN FIRST OF ALL,
AND ANOTHER THING.
...!
YOU WANT HIS POWER, BUT IT'S NOT FOR THAT.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THIS TEITEN REALLY IS!?
THEN HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?
IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH,


天
Teiten
YOU COULD SAY... THAT TEITEN IS MUCH CLOSER TO US.
PERHAPS YOU KNOW OF "KOKUTEN" ALSO CALLED THE "EMISSARY OF TEITEN."
KOKUTEN...? BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT NOBODY KNEW WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE?
Kokuten
Bonten
Gyokuten

laugh
laugh
TEITEN IS... NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A GOD...
OF COURSE, IF YOU ASKED BONTEN THAT QUESTION, YOU MIGHT GET A DIFFERENT ANSWER...
laugh

!?
HIM !?
THE YAKOU IS KOKUTEN.
YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT OUT?
IF TEITEN WOULD ACT THROUGH A CREATURE SUCH AS THAT...
THEN TEITEN IS THE ONE WHO BRINGS MISFORTUNE, WHILE REMAINING HIDDEN
TEITEN... IS ALLIED WITH THE DEMONS?
NO
THE YAKOU IS AN ENEMY OF DEMONS AS WELL
THE YAKOU
CREATES DISORDER... FOR HUMANS, DEMONS, THE ENTIRE WORLD

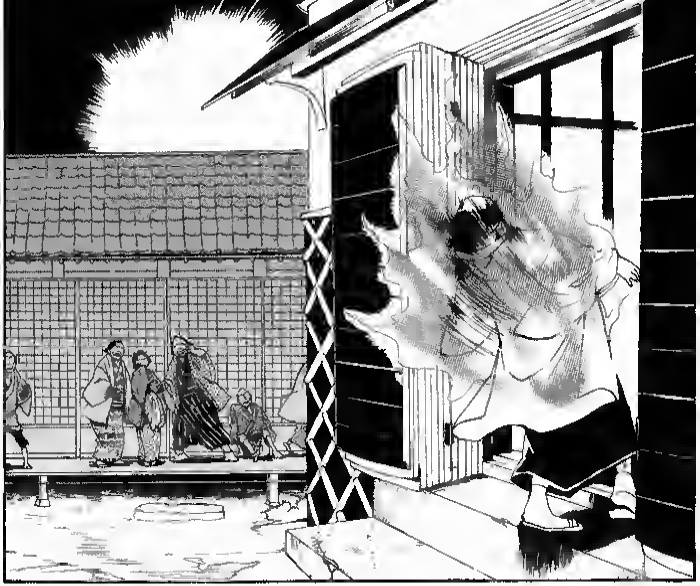
BUT WHAT TEITEN DOES NOT HAVE IS THE POWER OF "TRANS-FORMATION"... AND HE DOES.
OF COURSE, "DISORDER" IS A GREAT UNDERSTATE-MENT...
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
SO...


!!
WE OPPOSE THE WILL OF GOD.
WITH THE AMATSUKI ...

MY CURSE IS NOT THAT I WILL DIE, IT IS THAT I CANNOT DIE.
EVEN THE "UN-WRITTEN PAGE" CANNOT SAVE ME...
...I CANNOT FORGIVE TEITEN.
IF I COULD, I WOULD TAKE THEM DOWN MYSELF...
...I DO NOT INTEND TO MERELY STAND BY AND WATCH.
...WOULD YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND IF I TOLD YOU?
BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT HE'S DOING? FINDING A WAY TO BREAK THE CURSE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE?
?

WAH!
WHAT WAS THAT!? ARE YOU SURE IT CAN'T ESCAPE!?
THAT WAS THE SEVENTH ONE I'VE HAD TO EXORCISE !!
Whew ...
OH, NO, I MEAN I WAS SAYING
HUH ?
UH ... DON'T WORRY - OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND, RIGHT?
JUST RELAX, AND I'LL BE DONE WITH THE PURIFICATION IN NO TIME
SFX: -GRRRRR-
SFX: -ROAR-
Take This!!
SFX: -WHOOSH-
AVALOKITESHVARA BODHISATTVA, WHILE PRACTICING DEEP PRAJNA PARAMITA, PERCEIVED ALL FIVE SKANDHAS WERE EMPTY AND WAS SAVED FROM SUFFERING AND DISTRESS. SHARIPUTRA, ALL DHARMAS ARE MARKED WITH EMPTINESS. THEY DO NOT APPEAR OR DISAPPEAR, ARE NOT TAINTED OR PURE, NOT INCREASE OR DECREASE. THEREFORE IN EMPTINESS THERE IS NO FORM.*
* T/N: THIS IS THE "GREAT HEART OF WISDOM" SUTRA, WHICH IS USED TO DISPELL EVIL.
SFX: -FWOOM-

AND THEN YESTERDAY...
DWAAA



WHAT IF SOME-THING HORRIBLE IS IN THERE...?
HMM... WELL, I GUESS I'LL CHECK THERE NEXT.
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

WE ALWAYS KEEP A BUCKET OF WATER IN THE STOREHOUSE TO MAINTAIN THE HUMIDITY.
BUT EVEN THAT COULDN'T PUT THE FIRE OUT.

IT COULD BE A GROWING MONSTER...
BUT SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT HERE.
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOME REST AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME?
I'LL JUST INSPECT THE GOODS INSIDE THE STOREHOUSE
OH!
ALRIGHT!
VERY WELL.
I'LL HAVE THEM PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR YOU.
LIKE IT'S A SANCTUARY FOR SOMETHING...
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE... I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S STRONG, AND IT'S GROWING...

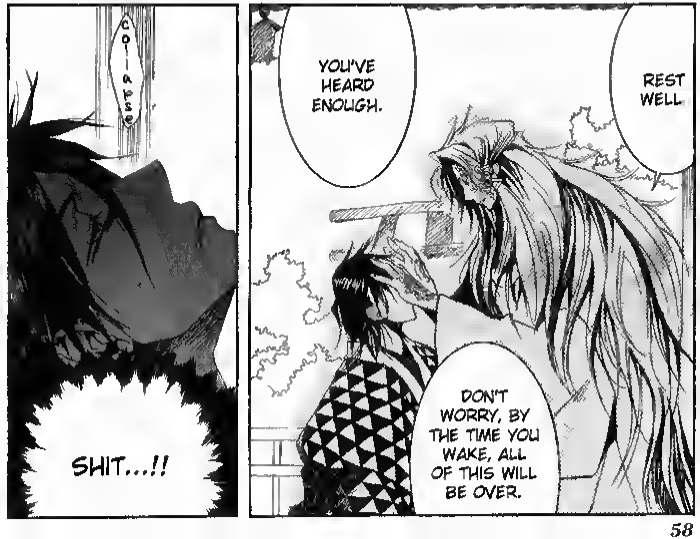
TO-
NIGHT
THEY
COME
AT
LAST
TO-
NIGHT

COME TO TAKE YOU AWAY...
HEY, GEN-SAN..
Opening door
I BROUGHT THE STUFF YOU WANTED...
SHOCK

SO I WILL LIVE ON...
IT IS A CURSE OF ETERNAL LIFE.
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE STAYED BEHIND...
AIEEEEEEEE!!
SOME BODY HELP !!!

I STILL HAVE SOME HOPE LEFT IN ME YET
AND I'VE ENTRUSTED IT TO HIM.

AND HE WAS JUST SO EARNEST ABOUT DOING WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS RIGHT
!?
glide
surprise
HE SAID HE'D TRY TO BREAK MY CURSE ON HIS OWN..


SHIT...!!
YOU'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
REST WELL
DON'T WORRY, BY THE TIME YOU WAKE, ALL OF THIS WILL BE OVER.

...I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO KNOW.
HOW MUCH IT STILL PAINS ME...
I LOST EVERYTHING THAT I CARED ABOUT LONG AGO
WHAT IS LEFT FOR ME NOW?
BUT THEN
YOU'RE STILL SUFFERING TOO, RIGHT?
SFX: THUD
NO!
BONTEN!!
TOKI ...!!

NOW YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR, GINSHU ...!!!
YOU CAN'T ...
BREAK THAT CURSE !!!

TRANSLATION AMADAMA | TYPESETTING & COVER DESIGN ASHISLOVER | PHOTOSHOP 044

amatsuki 3

あまつき

takayama shinobu

高山しのぶ

isbn 4-7580-5222-0

hana mi
WEBSITE
http://hana-mi.net

FORUM
http://nsoliterati.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=14

amatsuki_manga
LJ COMMUNITY
http://community.livejournal.com/amatsuki_manga

Chapter 16 Mid-Spring
pucker
gulp

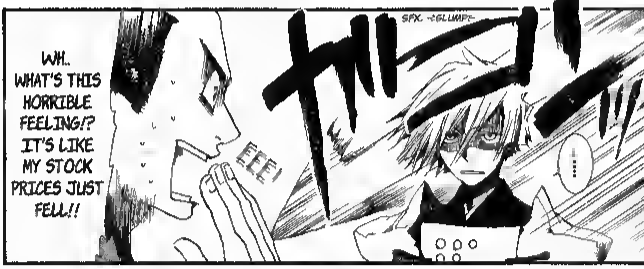
PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR MY MASTER...

GFX: =SLAM!=

THIS PLACE IS HUGE...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE LIVE HERE?
THEY'RE NOT ANY KIND OF "PEOPLE" FROM THIS WORLD...

WHAT IF THAT KID WENT TO CALL THE NUE?
YOU'RE IN DEEP SHIT, YOU KNOW?
?
NUE? WHAT'S THAT?

ARE YOU A CREATURE OF HEAVEN?
HOW HE SEES IT
.....
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING...

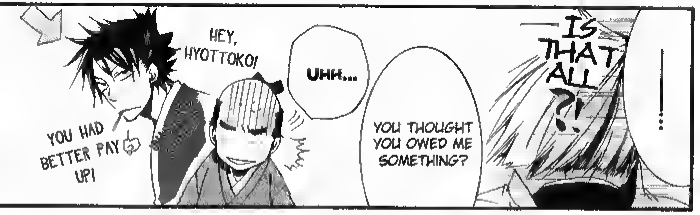

SFX: ~GLUMP!~
WH.. WHAT'S THIS HORRIBLE FEELING!? IT'S LIKE MY STOCK PRICES JUST FELL!!
EEE!
.....

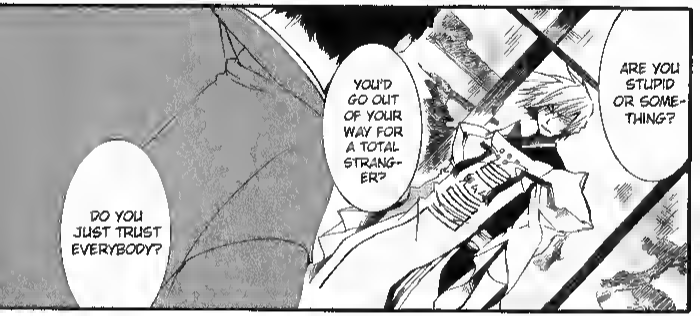
I'M NOT
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW...
NO

YOU... HOW DID YOU KNOW ...?
YOU'RE NOT A NORMAL HUMAN, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK YOU'LL FIT IN WEARING THAT OUTFIT!
Those clothes! They're so out of style that you can't possibly be from Edo!
sparkle
!
BUT I'VE MET SOME OTHER WEIRD-LOOKING GUYS...

BUT I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE WE COULD BE FRIENDS, EVEN THOUGH YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY A LIGHTWEIGHT
BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER SEEN FALL FROM THE SKY... THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD.
SO THAT ALONG WITH YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND AGILITY KINDA MADE ME THINK THAT YOU WEREN'T REALLY HUMAN

WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?
HUH?
Look, it's totally healed!
OH, WELL I GUESS I WOULD HAVE RUN AWAY IF YOU HAD BEEN TRYING TO HURT ME...
BUT YOU EVEN TREATED MY WOUND...

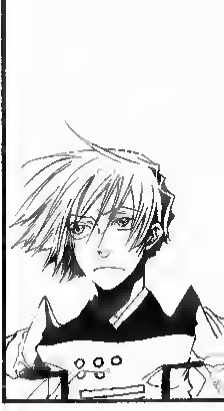

HEY, HYOTTOKO!
UHH...
YOU HAD BETTER PAY UP!
YOU THOUGHT YOU OWED ME SOMETHING?
IS THAT ALL?!
.....


ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?
YOU'D GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR A TOTAL STRANGER?
DO YOU JUST TRUST EVERYBODY?

BUT I'M A TRUE CHILD OF EDO! WHEN I MAKE A DECISION I STICK WITH IT!
YEAH!! EDO STYLE!!
DOS!

HMPH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID TO DESERVE INSULTS....
huff
HEY!

SO EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT MY FRIENDS...
THEY'RE STILL FUN TO BE WITH.



A LOT OF PEOPLE COME TO EDO.
BUT WE DON'T ASK ABOUT PEOPLE'S PASTS - THAT WOULD BE SO TACKY!
FROM "FAMOUS NEIGHBORHOODS OF EDO"

...YOU'RE A WEIRD GUY.

!
HA HA HA!
I'M TSUYUKUSA
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
OH YEAH, WE HAVEN'T EVEN INTRODUCED OURSELVES YET!
I'M HEIHACHI, NICE TO MEET YOU!

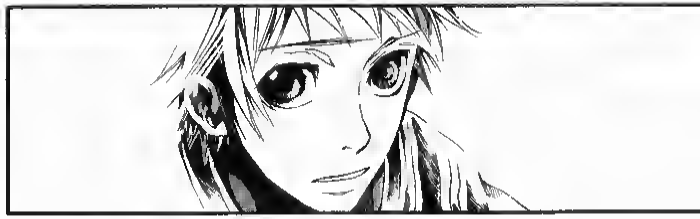
I APOLOGISE FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
I HAD WORK TO ATTEND TO.
YOU ARE MY HONORED GUESTS,
BUT I'M AFRAID I CANNOT EXTEND AN INVITATION TO STAY THE NIGHT
PLEASE FORGIVE MY POOR MANNERS.
.....
BECAUSE OF YOUR "WORK?"
shake
THAT SMELL ...
IT'S HUMAN BLOOD, ISN'T IT?
YOU'VE BEEN KILLING HUMANS, HAVEN'T YOU!?

....HUH? WHAT?
HIEEHAAGHH!!!
SFX: "CRASH"
DID YOU BRING A HUMAN HERE?
WHY...
Sigh
AND THAT IS ENOUGH
AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE COME HERE
BUT...
I BEAR NO GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.
NO, NO
YOU'VE NEVER COME TO MY AID BEFORE.
AND WHY SHOULD YOU BE SO CONCERNED ABOUT ME...?
NO...
HOW CAN I SAY THAT I AM GRATEFUL TO ANYONE...
WHEN THAT'S A LIE?
NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, INARI...
HAS THE YAKOU'S MADNESS OVER-COME YOU!?
HAVE YOU FOR-GOTTEN...
THAT HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD IS POISON TO OUR KIND!?

HEY, SHINSHU-CHAN!
YOU MUST LIKE GOING INTO TOWN, HUH?
She looks so happy
Y.. Yes!
I DON'T GET TO GO OUT MUCH...
BUT I KNOW WE'RE NOT JUST GOING ON A TRIP, SO I SHOULDN'T PLAY AROUND
OH?
IT'S NO PROBLEM, REALLY...
THAT'S RIGHT
THE CITY IS FULL OF FILTHY, DANGEROUS PEOPLE SO TRY NOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE OUT THERE...
IF THE PRINCESS WEREN'T IN SUCH A STATE, SHINSHU WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE AT ALL...

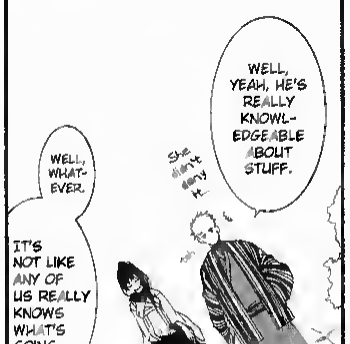
IT'S NOT THAT.
I DIDN'T THINK GINSHU-SAN WAS THAT STRICT—
THE PRINCESS ALWAYS KEEPS SHINSHU NEARBY.
A CONSTANT PUNISHMENT.
IT'S LIKE...
SHE USED TO BE A PAMPERED LITTLE GIRL, AND NOW SHE LIVES LIKE A MAID-SERVANT
WHEN THE PRINCESS IS IN THAT BODY, SHINSHU TREATS HER WITH RESPECT AND FEAR
SHE STAYS CLOSE TO THE PRINCESS TO ATTEND TO HER EVERY NEED
THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAS NEVER RECOVERED

NOTHING THAT THE PRINCESS CAN SAY WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS
IT ISN'T JUST AN ORDINARY PUNISHMENT
SHE FEELS THE HORRIBLE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRINCESS'S CONDITION
MANY PEOPLE STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN HER.
THEY NO LONGER ACT AS BROTHER AND SISTER...
SHINSHU HAS BECOME SO MEEK, AND NEVER TELLS ANYONE HOW SHE FEELS...
AND THE PRINCESS CAN'T COMFORT HER AS HER BROTHER.
ALL SHE CAN DO IS PROTECT HER FROM A DISTANCE.



WERE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I SAID?
shock
BROTHER!?

OKAY!
!
COME ON, TSURUUME!
I'M COMING! DON'T GO PAST THAT TORII GATE!
YOU'RE MAKING A WEIRD FACE AGAIN
YEAH, YOU WERE!
THAT'S BETTER.
SNORT
I AM?


WELL, YEAH, HE'S REALLY KNOWL-EDGEABLE ABOUT STUFF.
She didn't deny it.
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF US REALLY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON...

HEY, I DIDN'T HAVE TO COME WITH YOU!
WHAT!?
HEY.
YOUR FACE LOOKS WEIRD TOO.

BUT HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN'T STAND NOT KNOWING
I'VE HAD A BAD FEEL-ING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE SOME-THING'S UP...
WAS IT REALLY OKAY TO LEAVE HIM ON HIS OWN...?

ARE YOU WORRIED BECAUSE SHINON-OME ISN'T HERE?
AREN'T YOU?
Hmph

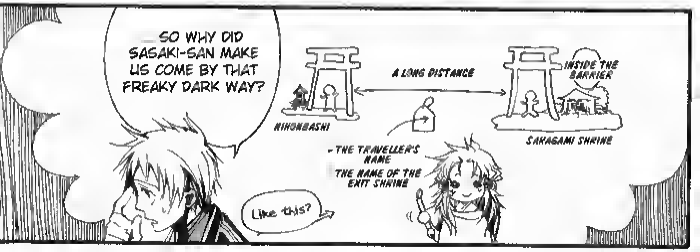
EVEN IF EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY ...
SHAMON-SAN MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT US BY NOW...
I DON'T THINK WE'LL SEE HIM FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TALKING ABOUT YOUR WORRIES, KUCHIHA.
HMMM.
YEAH, RIGHT, LIKE I BELIEVE THAT.

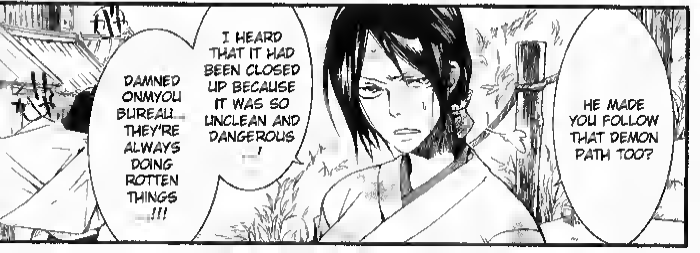
pause
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE DOG GOD INSIDE KUCHIHA?

.....
.....
WHAT?

ALL OF THE MISC. SOUND EFFECTS... CROWD NOISES.
SAKE!
PREMIUM SAKE! 1¤
DAMN!
HUH!?
WHAT!? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN!?
TA
DAA
WHAT!?
WHERE ARE WE!?

THIS IS A TRAVEL PASS MADE BY THE PRINCESS.
SWING
WITH THIS, YOU CAN TRAVEL BETWEEN ANY TORII GATES.
L-LINKED!?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW!?
THEN HOW DID YOU GET HERE!?
WHAT ARE YOU TWO SO EXCITED ABOUT?
ALL OF THE GATES ARE LINKED, YOU KNOW?

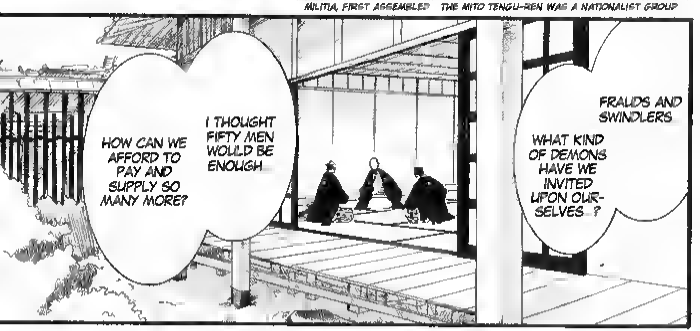

SO WHY DID SASAKI-SAN MAKE US COME BY THAT FREAKY DARK WAY?
A LONG DISTANCE
NIHONBASHI
INSIDE THE BARRIER
SAKAGAMI SHRINE
- THE TRAVELLER'S NAME
THE NAME OF THE EXIT SHRINE
Like this?


SFX: -CROW!! NOISE-
DAMNED ONMYOU BUREAU! THEY'RE ALWAYS DOING ROTTEN THINGS!!!
I HEARD THAT IT HAD BEEN CLOSED UP BECAUSE IT WAS SO UNCLEAN AND DANGEROUS!
HE MADE YOU FOLLOW THAT DEMON PATH TOO?

On February 4th, 1863, masterless samurai gathered at the Koishikawa Densuuin temple in order to protect the Shogun.
Their force was 200 men strong
Sasaki's younger brother, Sasaki Tadasaburou, was one of the organisers.
THAT'S
(PHP Institute / Kyoto Mimawarigumi)
T/N: THE MIMAWARIGUMI WAS A SHOGUNATE MILITIA IN THE 1860S.
WHAT, NOBODY TOLD YOU THAT EITHER?
SASAKI-SAMA PRACTICES A DIFFERENT KIND OF ART, AND IT'S CALLED ONMYOUDOU.
ONMYOU BUREAU?
PEOPLE SAY THEY'RE LIKE THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSONAL ARMY.
BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE REALLY LIKE.
WHAT WILL MATSUDAIRA-SAMA AND UDONO-SAMA SAY ABOUT THIS!?
BUT SASAKI-SAN, ISN'T THAT A HOPELESS PLAN...?
ISN'T IT TOO LATE TO BE SUGGESTING THINGS LIKE THAT!?
T/N: MATSUDAIRA AND UDONO WERE SHOGUNATE OFFICIALS.

WHAT IS THIS MIXED GROUP!?
WE CAN'T EMPLOY GAMBLERS AND PEASANTS!
I SEE PEOPLE FROM THE MITO TENGU-REN AND SHIEIKAN...
THEY'RE COMING IN FROM ALL OVER...

TN: SHIEIKAN DOJO WAS WHERE THE SHINSENGUMI ANOTHER FAMOUS SHOGUNATE MILITIA, FIRST ASSEMBLED! THE MITO TENGU-REN WAS A NATIONALIST GROUP

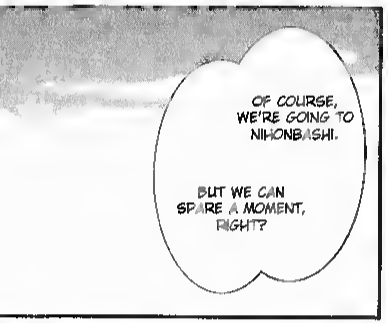

HOW CAN WE AFFORD TO PAY AND SUPPLY SO MANY MORE?
I THOUGHT FIFTY MEN WOULD BE ENOUGH...
FRAUDS AND SWINDLERS.
WHAT KIND OF DEMONS HAVE WE INVITED UPON OURSELVES...?

BUT HOW CAN WE USE THESE RUFFIANS...?
I MEAN, IS THERE A PROBLEM?
HAHA HA~
IT'S ALRIGHT. I'M NOBODY SPECIAL.
...OH NO, SASAKI-SAMA, FOR A MEMBER OF THE ONMYOU BUREAU TO COME IN PERSON...
WE BELIEVE IN ABILITY.
IF THEY WERE ONCE RESPECTABLE, THERE IS NOW NO TRACE OF THEIR EXISTENCE.
NOT GENDER, NOT CHARACTER, NOT CRIMINAL RECORD
AND THAT'S WHAT THE ONMYOU BUREAU IS LIKE
THEY ARE SO FULL OF SHIT!!
OH NO, YOU'VE GOT ME~
HEY, MISS, THAT HURT~!

GAAAH!!?
OH, DID I SURPRISE YOU?
laugh
I'M FROM THE ONMYOU BUREAU - "FULL OF SHIT," AS YOU PUT IT YOU CAN CALL ME KUROTOBI
SURPRISE
THAT OLD MAN SASAKI TOLD ME TO SHOW YOU KIDS AROUND NIHONBASHI.
NICE TO MEET YOU~
laugh
laugh
AHAHA, NO, NO... WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOU BEING FULL OF SHIT...?
flustered
AHA HA HA!
NO PROBLEM YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT
I'M JUST A LOW-LEVEL GRUNT SO I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS OR ANYTHING
BUT STILL
I THINK YOU'D FIND US RATHER SCARY~

GINSHU-SAMA USES THE POWER OF THE GODS AND THE BUDDHAS TO HELP PEOPLE.
AND ONMYOUJI USE DEMONS AND SPIRITS, RIGHT?
BUT PLENTY OF ONMYOUJI BECOME TAINTED BY SPIRITS, OR CONSUMED ENTIRELY...
SCARY, ISN'T IT...?
SO WE'RE KIND OF AN ODD LOT...
Heh
SO BE CARE-FUL~
!?
Surprised
WELL, NOW, WE CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND TALKING ALL DAY. SHALL WE GO?

OOOH~
KUROTOBI-SAN?
WHERE EXACTLY ARE YOU TAKING US?
YOU'RE EVEN CUTER THAN I EXPECTED?
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS RIKUGOU-SAN?


OF COURSE, WE'RE GOING TO NIHONBASHI.
BUT WE CAN SPARE A MOMENT, RIGHT?

...

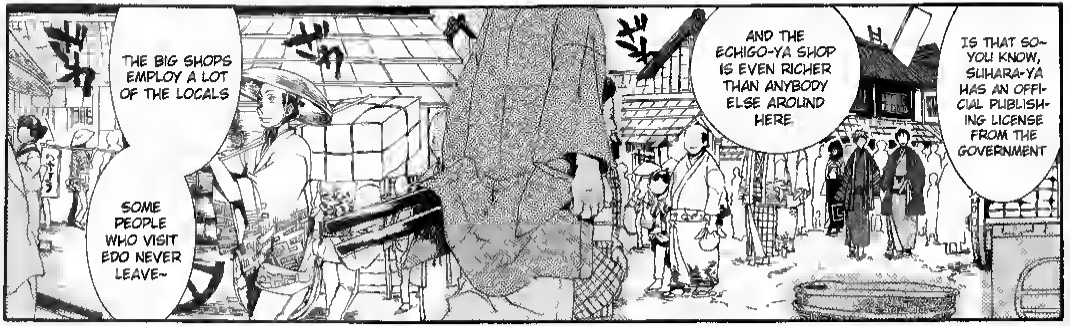
I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC DESTINATION IN MIND~
I THOUGHT WE'D JUST WALK AROUND FOR A WHILE AND GATHER INFORMATION
WELL, COME ALONG~

AND IF YOU'RE A SKILLED CRAFTSMAN, LIKE A CARPENTER OR SOMETHING, YOU CAN MAKE MONEY PRETTY EASILY.
IN A DAY OR TWO, YOU CAN MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER THE RENT.

AND NOT ALL FIRES ARE ACCIDENTS~
EDO IS ALWAYS GETTING DESTROYED BY FIRE, SO THERE'S PLENTY OF WORK, RIGHT?
AHAHAHA~
DON'T TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU LAZY BUM!!

YOU KNOW, WHERE THE MITSUI ECHIGO-YA DRY GOODS SHOP IS, AND THE KAMIDON-YA AND SUHARA-YA STORES?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS?
I KNOW SUHARA-YA AND MITSUI AND ALL THAT!
OH YEAH !!
THESE DAYS, NIHONBASHI IS THE MERCHANT'S DISTRICT - BUSINESSES FLOURISH IN THE AREA AROUND EDO CASTLE
IT GOES FROM THE FIRST TO THE FOURTH BLOCK, AND FROM HONCHOU TO ODENMA-CHOU. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF IT?

TN: SUHARA-YA IS A BOOKSTORE CHAIN AND MITSUI IS A BANK.


THE BIG SHOPS EMPLOY A LOT OF THE LOCALS
SOME PEOPLE WHO VISIT EDO NEVER LEAVE~
AND THE ECHIGO-YA SHOP IS EVEN RICHER THAN ANYBODY ELSE AROUND HERE
IS THAT SO~ YOU KNOW, SUHARA-YA HAS AN OFFICIAL PUBLISHING LICENSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT

SFX: -CROWD NOISES-

A MAN WAS KILLED BEHIND THE NAITO SHINJUKU HOTEL!!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
SHOVE!!
WE'RE ACTUALLY DOING WORK!!
YES!!!
PUSH!
SO WHAT CAN I HELP YOU GENTLEMEN WITH TODAY?
NONE OF THAT~
HMPH....
BUT...!!
OH MY...!
HEY!! IT'S TARO!!
THE RUMOR IS THAT IT WAS GENKICHI THE CARPENTER...
WHERE TO? BACK TO HEADQUARTERS?
ALRIGHT...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! LET'S GO!!
YOU WON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME!!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK!?
Does that help?
I USED TO HAVE A DOG NAMED GENKICHI....

...NO, TO THE KOTEN-MACHOU PRISON. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS THERE.
BUT WHILE YOU'RE HERE...
I'LL ASK YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT A MAN WITH A TATTOO ON HIS LEFT ARM.
TATTOOS...?
THEY'RE THE MARK OF CRIMI-NALS.
PEOPLE WHO ARE ARRESTED FOR THEFT OR GAMBLING GET A TATTOO ON THEIR LEFT ARM...
OH? DON'T TELL ME...
YOU LET A PRISONER ESCAPE?
WE DON'T WANT TO CAUSE A DISTURBANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE SO THIS IS THE FIRST WE'VE SAID OF IT.
BUT STILL YOU'D DO BEST TO NOT BE WALKING ABOUT AT NIGHT.

BE CAREFUL...
OR YOU'LL BE TAKEN BY THE DARKNESS.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, BON?
.....
IT'S NO USE
I CAN'T SENSE TSUYU-KUSA'S AURA...
WHAT COULD HAVE HAP-PENED...?
HE'S BEEN MOODY EVER SINCE WE LEFT THAT SPIRIT BARRIER...
turn
BON? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHAT!?
YOU ARE GOING BACK THERE!?
BUT THAT PLACE IS HOR-RIBLE AND UN-CLEAN, HOW COULD WE GO THERE!?
Kyaa
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE HUMAN WORLD, THEN HUMANS WILL KNOW ABOUT IT FIRST.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO TALK TO THAT GAMBLER.

I'LL GO BY MYSELF YOU CAN STAY HERE
WHAT!?
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU HAD TO GO ALONE...
WAH, WHY DO YOU KEEP MAKING SUCH AN ANGRY FACE!!?
BECAUSE I'M PISSED OFF.
SFX -CHATTER RUSTLES

HEY.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
...OH, WELL LOOK WHO IT IS...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... HASN'T IT?

TRANSLATION AMADAMA | TYPESETTING & COVER DESIGN ASHISLOVER | PHOTOSHOP 044

amatsuki 3

あまつき

takayama shinobu

高山しのぶ

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hana mi
WEBSITE
http://hana-mi.net

FORUM
http://nsoliterati.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=14

amatsuki_manga
LJ COMMUNITY
http://community.livejournal.com/amatsuki_manga

A TATTOO ON THE LEFT ARM IS THE MARK OF A CRIMINAL
A MAN WAS KILLED BEHIND THE NAITO SHINJUKU HOTEL.
FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN 'BOUT A M. N WITH A TATTOO ON HIS LEFT ARM.
AT NIHONBASHI
AT OX CRIES
IF YOU WANT
TO BREAK THE CURSE
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
DAMN IT...
TOKI!!

Chapter 17 Mid-Spring Part 2

Chapter 17 Mid-Spring Part 2

DIDN'T SASAKI SAY HE WOULD LEAD YOU GUYS FROM NIHONBASHI ON?
OKAY, SO WHAT NOW?
HE'S INVESTIGATING WEIRD STUFF AROUND TOWN, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT

JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT TENGU!
GYOUTEN-SAN IS ALWAYS THINKING OF WAYS TO CATCH HIM.

WHY? WHAT DO PETTY CRIMES HAVE TO DO WITH US?
Ooo oh~ ♡
You're so demanding, just like a big sister! It's kind of cute~
poke

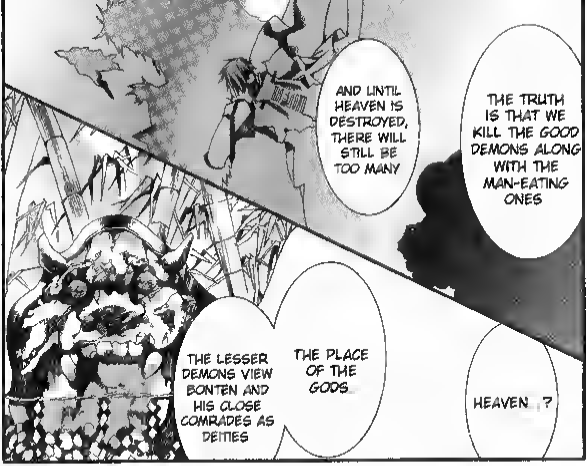
UNLESS WE'RE HIS TARGET TOO...
OR MAYBE THE SHRINE'S POWER HAS GROWN TOO WEAK...
LIKE... LURING HIM OUT TO NIHONBASHI, FOR INSTANCE.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLAN...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PRINCESS IS BEHIND THIS!?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL.
I'M JUST EXPLORING A FEW POSSIBILITIES.
IT'S IN MY NATURE TO BE SUSPICIOUS.
I'M SUCH AN UNPLEASANT GUY,
BUT...
I HAVE HEARD THAT GYOUTEN-SAN IS AGRESSIVELY GOING AFTER DEMONS.
AND BONTEN... IS SORT OF LIKE THEIR LEADER.

SO IT'S NOT REALLY STRANGE TO BE PLOTTING AGAINST HIM, RIGHT?
..I GUESS NOT...

...UM ...
I MEAN...
I killed you?
ooooh
You've killed me!!
AHH, MY SPIRIT IS CRUSHED!
...WAAH, RIKUGOU-SAN DOESN'T BELIEVE ME?

..PERHAPS NOT...
BUT CAN YOU SAY THE SAME FOR ALL OF HIS KIND?

HOW CAN I SAY IT_?
he he
I JUST DON'T THINK WE SHOULD FULL-OUT ATTACK THEM LIKE ENEMIES.


THE TRUTH IS THAT WE KILL THE GOOD DEMONS ALONG WITH THE MAN-EATING ONES
AND UNTIL HEAVEN IS DESTROYED, THERE WILL STILL BE TOO MANY
HEAVEN...?
THE PLACE OF THE GODS...
THE LESSER DEMONS VIEW BONTEN AND HIS CLOSE COMRADES AS DEITIES

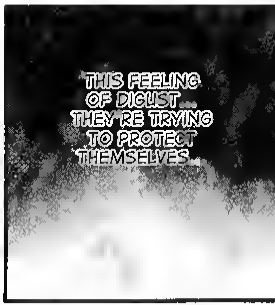
YOU MUST NOT FORGET...
THAT NO MATTER HOW IT SEEMS...
THEY ARE OUR ENEMIES.

A DOG COMES FROM HEAVEN...
AND TEARS APART THE RABBIT...
THE DEMONS HAVE BEEN SINGING THAT AWFUL SONG EVERY NIGHT.

BY THEIR SILENCE, I KNEW THEY ALL FELT THE SAME WAY.

IS THIS...
WHAT IT MEANS TO LOOK AT SOMEONE WITH HATRED?

THEY WANT TO LIVE...
SO THEY HAVE TO HATE...


THIS FEELING OF DISGUST... THEY'RE TRYING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

MAYBE EVEN THE PERSON RIGHT NEXT TO YOU...?
IN THIS TIME, PEOPLE HAVE THE WEAPONS AND SKILLS TO KILL EACH OTHER...
BUT IT'S NOT JUST SWORDS AND GUNS THAT CAN KILL PEOPLE...
WHAT IS THAT REALLY LIKE?
LIVING EVERY DAY LIKE IT COULD BE YOUR LAST...
WHAT IF PEOPLE CAN BE CUT DOWN AS EASILY AS TREES?
IF I COULD STAND GOING OUTSIDE EVERY DAY.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
IF I THOUGHT THAT WAY...
EVEN IN MY WORLD, THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO KILL SOMEONE...

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO FORGIVE...
THE ENEMY MUST BE DESTROYED
WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?
PREJUDICE, HATRED...
ALL BECAUSE THEY ARE THE "ENEMY"...
EVEN MURDER...
I NEED YOU

AM I GOING TO BE CAUGHT UP IN ALL OF THIS?
IS IT TOO LATE?
NO MATTER WHAT I DO...

SFX: -GRASHE-

HEI-
HA-
CHI!!

.....
!!

SFX: -CRACK-

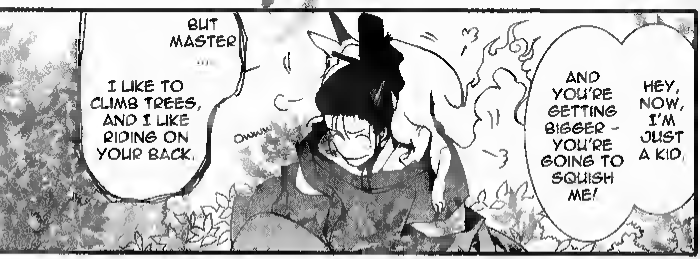
SFX: -GLANK-
!!!
OH MY, LOOK HOW RED IT IS...
HE REALLY IS A HUMAN AFTER ALL.
IT SEEMS YOU WERE MIS-TAKEN, NOW DOESN'T IT?
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING TO SAVE ME, DIDN'T YOU?
ISN'T IT FUNNY?
OH?
WELL, I'M GLAD
...NO, I WASN'T WRONG.
I WENT TO HIM TO ASK FORGIV-NESS...
AND HE MADE ME STRONGER.
I HOPED YOU WOULDN'T THINK ME JUST A HEARTLESS KILLER.

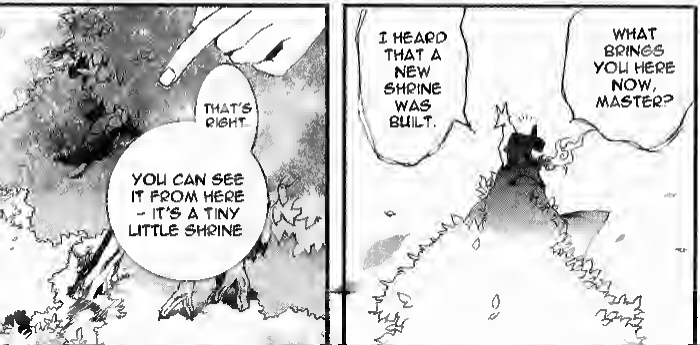
SFX: -CRUSH-
WELL, THAT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY SIMPLE! WHO KNEW IT WAS SO EASY TO KILL A HUMAN?
IF IT'S THIS EASY...
THEN I DON'T NEED TO RELY ON HEAVEN ANYMORE, DO I?
JUST A LITTLE-
SFX: -COLLAPSE-
.....EH?
FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE POOR, WEAK SPIRITS
CAN WE NOT JOIN FORCES TO DESTROY THE HUMANS?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
WHEN I AM FINISHED WITH THIS, LET ME JOIN YOU

LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE THIS.
SFX - HNNNN
AAAHHHHHHHHHH!!
AHAHAHA!!
AAAHHHHHH!!

SFX: -COLLAPSE-
I GUESS I WON'T BE COMING HOME THIS TIME...
HEIHA-CHI!
HEIHA-CHI!
HEIHA-CHI!
COME HOME!
...I'M SORRY, MAMA...
IT HURTS
SOMEBODY HELP ME

MASTER ... MASTER ...
wrath
wrath
OH, THERE YOU ARE, IMAYOU!
COME...
COME...
COME...
ha ha ha


BUT MASTER ... I LIKE TO CLIMB TREES, AND I LIKE RIDING ON YOUR BACK.
Ommm
AND YOU'RE GETTING BIGGER - YOU'RE GOING TO SQUISH ME!
HEY, NOW, I'M JUST A KID.

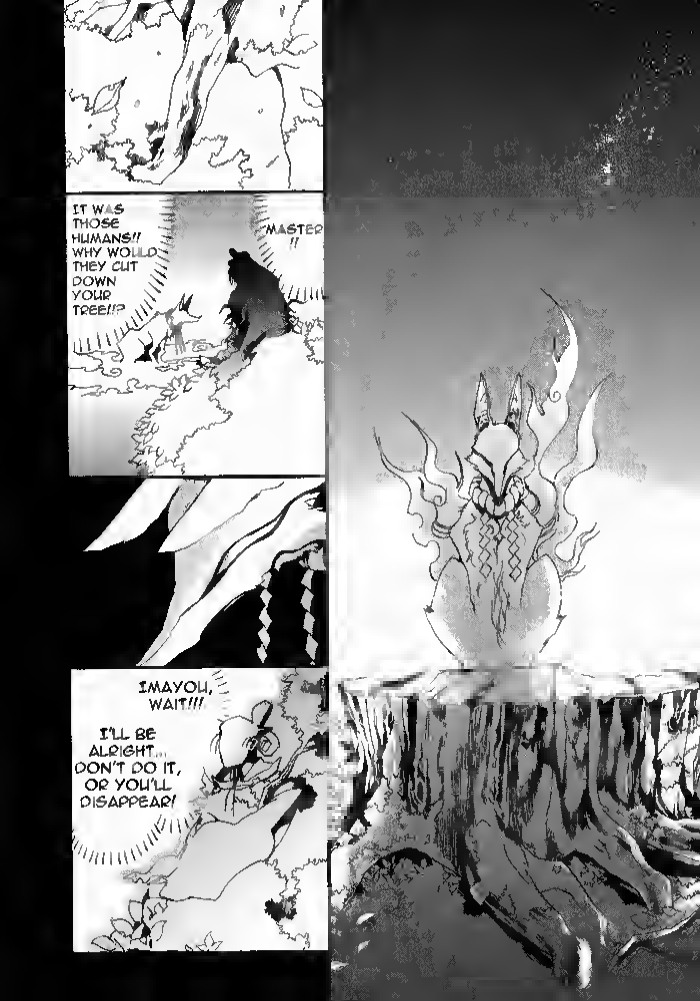

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE - IT'S A TINY LITTLE SHRINE
I HEARD THAT A NEW SHRINE WAS BUILT.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE NOW, MASTER?

BUT MASTER, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO KIND TO ME.
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU BEFORE? MAYBE IT'S NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA FOR US TO BE TOGETHER. WE SHOULD STOP
THEN I'VE DE-CIDED!
I'M GOING TO LIVE THERE!
THEN I CAN KEEP HANGING AROUND YOU
Eh?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND HANGING AROUND WITH JUST ANY OLD TREE SPIRIT!
Be careful!
WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?
YOU'RE SO BIG AND TALL AND HANDSOME AND WON-DERFUL!
A SACRED TREE PRO-VIDES SHELTER FOR LOTS OF SPIRITS
THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE IS HARDLY FAIR TO YOU, IS IT?
AT YOUR AGE, YOU SHOULD HAVE TEN GUARDI-ANS!
JUMP
AH!
BESIDES, IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT FOR A TREE SPIRIT TO NOT HAVE A SPIRIT ANIMAL TO PROTECT IT

OKAY, OKAY!
I GET IT
YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO STOP SEEING ME, RIGHT?
YEAH
I'M JUST WORRIED, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU LOOK
IMAYOU, YOU'RE THE PERSON WHO PRACTICALLY RAISED ME, AND YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE
YOU HELPED ME, AND YOU TAUGHT ME

I'VE NEVER BEEN A REALLY STRONG-WILLED, DECISIVE PERSON, BUT...
THIS PLACE IS SOME-THING I'LL ALWAYS TREA-SURE...
MAYBE ONE DAY PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AND WRITE SONGS UNDER IT
twitch
AND NOW THIS LITTLE TREE HAS GROWN
IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO FLOWER, NOW
HIS VOICE WAS SO SOOTH-ING
THE WIND WAS BLOWING AND THE TREES WERE FRA-GRANT...
WHY DOES EVERYONE SEEM TO THINK HUMANS ARE SO SPECIAL?
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE AREN'T BAD PEOPLE TOO

OUR LIVES ARE SO SHORT, YET SO BEAUTIFUL ...
HUMANS, INSECTS, ANIMALS THEY'RE ALL THE SAME
IS PRECIOUS
I BELIEVE THAT ALL LIFE
AND THAT... IS LOVE.


IT WAS THOSE HUMANS!! WHY WOULD THEY CUT DOWN YOUR TREE!!?
MASTER !!
IMAYOU, WAIT!!!
I'LL BE ALRIGHT... DON'T DO IT, OR YOU'LL DISAPPEAR!

EVERY-THING WILL BE ALRIGHT!
THE GODS WILL HELP US!
HELP US
IT'S A VISITOR...
ANOTHE ONE?
HUMANS CAME HERE AGAIN...
WHAT IS IT?
PLEASE, WAIT!!
THE GODS WILL HELP US!
EVERYTHING WILL BE AL-RIGHT IN THE MORNING!
IMAYOU..!!
MASTER...!!

IMAYOU ...
HUMANS AND SPIRITS ...
ARE ALL...
PRECIOUS ...

AH
UMM...
SWEEP
WELL THEN...
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
WE'LL GO WHEREVER RIKUGOU-SAN WANTS TO GO.
?
THE "UN-WRITTEN PAGE" IS THE POWER TO CHANGE FATE, RIGHT?
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE...
ISN'T IT EXCITING?
SO MAYBE IT WILL TELL US WHERE TO GO.
!
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO MY CHOICE...
BETWEEN HUMANS AND DEMONS?
WILL I DE-STROY THE BALANCE...

AGAIN, I ASK YOU TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE PRINCESS AND ME.
HIS EYES WERE FILLED WITH GENTLE FONDNESS...
AT THAT TIME,
AND HER EYES HELD SUCH COMPASSION AND SADNESS...

HEY,
IT'S NOT THAT HARD, IS IT?
SO SAD...
!
Gulp
..I GUESS...
I FEEL LIKE...
LET'S GO BACK TO NIHONBASHI FOR NOW.
I'M LOST AND ALONE...
SO SAD...

TRANSLATION AMADAMA | TYPESETTING & COVER DESIGN ASHISLOVER | PHOTOSHOP 044

amatsuki 3

あまつき

takayama shinobu

高山しのぶ

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WEBSITE
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FORUM
http://nsoliterati.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=14

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http://community.livejournal.com/amatsuki_manga

Chapter 18: Midspring Part 3
tap
UNEXPECTEDLY
HUMANS AND SPIRITS MEET ..
EVENTS AT NIHONBASHI WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN
ALL THE NECESSARY PLAYERS WILL GATHER THERE
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE THIS, WILL YOU, TEITEN?
JUST WATCH.
HEAVEN'S NET HAS BEEN TORN.

Chapter 18: Mindspring: Part 3

IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE DECIDED?
snap
Hehe.
I GUESS RIKUGOU-SAN TRUSTS THE WORD OF A TENGU
UM I
mutter...
GA
SP
LET'S GO TO NIHON-BASHI
It's not that I trust him,
It's—
Um well
Sixth sense about these things?
kffffft

What is all of this "unwritten page" stuff?

IF YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A TRAP, THEN LET'S GO TO NIHONBASHI!
Aha haha~
ALRIGHT! WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR INTUITION!
snap

wobble
whak

YEAH... SORRY TO BUTT IN HERE, BUT...

You guys act like you know everything talking about all that weird crap!!
Sorry, okay!? I don't know!!!
GAH
KUCHIHA, YOU DON'T KNOW!?
"Huh!?"
If I say that I don't have a clue what's going on, they won't believe a word I say!!
So come on, Taki, if you're so smart, then why don't you explain it!?
.....
WHAT DID I DO?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT
BUT SINCE I'M FROM AROUND NIHONBASHI AND I KNOW THE AREA, WHY DON'T I ACT AS OUR GUIDE?
...IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. THERE'S STILL A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE POWER OF THE UNWRITTEN PAGE

YOU SEEM TO KNOW AN AWFUL LOT OF THINGS.
SOMEHOW I'M NOT SURPRISED

!
I GUESS I WAS CARELESS.
ARE YOU ONE OF HIS UNDER-LINGS?
YOU WORK FOR SASAKI-DONO, DON'T YOU?
YOU WERE OBVIOUSLY SENT BY SASAKI-DONO, SO DON'T EVEN BOTHER DENYING IT
.....
OH WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

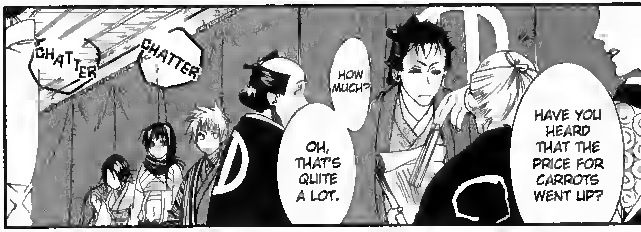
!
Grab
WH
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
Um...
Nothing...
GET OFF OF ME, YOU CREEP!
SORRY!
SORRY!
WAIT, WE'RE GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD OF THEM!

WELL, HERE WE ARE.
THIS IS NIHONBASHI.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
WELCOME BACK, YOUNG MASTER!!
WELL, WHERE TO NOW?
SFX: crowd noise

CHATTER
HEY THERE, NOT SO FAST!
YOUNG MASTER! IS EVERY-THING ALRIGHT?
CHATTER
AHH, IT'S SO NOISY IN HERE YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK UP

CHATTER
CHATTER
THIS IS WHERE I LIVE WE RUN A DRUG-STORE
COME ON IN
CHATTER

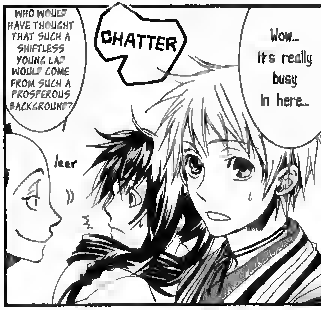
CHATTER
WE WON'T STAY LONG
I'M SORRY TO HAVE DRAGGED THEM HERE
CHATTER
CHATTER
THEY'RE FRIENDS OF SASAKI-SAMA SO THEY'RE OUR HONORED GUESTS


CHATTER
CHATTER
HOW MUCH?
OH, THAT'S QUITE A LOT.
HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THE PRICE FOR CARROTS WENT UP?

CHATTER
WELL THEN, COME THIS WAY
CHATTER
Yes sir
Understood

CHATTER
OH... NOTHING FORGET ABOUT IT.
GUESTS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CHATTER

OH, RIGHT.
CHATTER
MASTER? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS?
CHATTER
ARE THEY SOME KIND OF STREET PERFORMERS?


WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT SUCH A SHIFTLESS YOUNG LA" WOULD COME FROM SUCH A PROSPEROUS BACKGROUND?
CHATTER
Wow... It's really busy in here...
fear

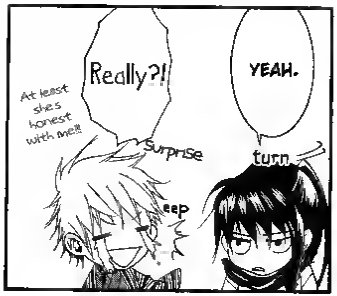
BUT RIGHT HERE, THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME POWER AS TEITEN
THAT'S YOU, RIKUGOU-SAN
Teiten
Kokuten
OKAY
Bonten
Heaven
Others
The unwritten Page
Gyouten
Attendants
Omnyou Bureau
Temples
Shrines
YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A CHART, LIKE THIS
TEITEN'S POWER IS DISTRIBUTED AMONG BONTEN GYOUTEN AND KOKUTEN

crushed
sigh
Huuuuuuh?
THAT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE
...

THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE WHEN THEIR STRINGS ARE PULLED
SO BONTEN, GYOUTEN AND KOKUTEN ARE LIKE PUPPETS IN THE HANDS OF TEITEN

BUT TEITEN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE...
WHO CAN TEAR THOSE THREADS.
AND SPIN A NEW WEB.
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING...
SO WE THINK WE'RE CREATING OUR OWN F. TE.
UM...
OKAY, I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD...
don't look at me like that!
hmmm...
stare

...HAHA, THAT'S CUTE
BUT MAYBE WE'RE BETTER OFF BELIEVING WE'RE IN CONTROL.
I FEEL SORT OF BAD FOR PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW THE WORLD IS GOING TO END...
IT'S KINDA DEPRESSING, ISN'T IT?
!
Quiet, you bastard!
AH, SORRY... I SLIPPED AGAIN
PRETTY FACE, BUT YOU CAN'T TRUST APPEARANCES
MY GUESS IS THAT GYOUTEN-SAMA IS KEEPING SOME BIG SECRETS FROM US COMMON PEOPLE...


At least she's honest with me!!
Really?!
YEAH.
Surprise
turn
eep

Is it that weird?
I, um... I wouldn't say we're close exactly...
SPEAKING OF PRETTY FACES, AREN'T YOU KIND OF CLOSE TO THAT TENGU GUY TOO?
DRIP DRIP

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
※
Sorry!
IF I WERE TO OPPOSE THE SPIRIT WORLD

YOU DON'T SOUND TOO WORRIED ABOUT THIS "UNWRITTEN PAGE" STUFF, THOUGH.
...I GUESS YOU'RE OKAY.
sigh
I DUNNO WHAT THE HUMAN WORLD OR THE SPIRIT WOULD WOULD MAKE OF IT, BUT.
I THINK YOU'LL STICK TO YOUR WORDS

SHINONOME HAD IT RIGHT. YOU'RE TOO INDECISIVE.
YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYBODY ANY FAVORS
I'D BE GOING AGAINST HER... I DON'T WANT THAT...
Oh?
Or are you trying to say something nice?
We are you trying to get at me?
IF I'M THIS "UNWRITTEN PAGE" THING...
I WONDER WHAT SHINONOME IS DOING?

I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA
PLEASE EXCUSE ME

THANKS, BENI-CHAN

MY LITTLE SISTER HAS BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF THE RUMORS CIRCULATING AROUND NIHONBASHI LATELY.
WHY DON'T WE RESUME OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION?
IN OUR BUSINESS, A LOT OF OUR CUSTOMERS ARE DOCTORS
SO WE OVERHEAR SOME INTERESTING THINGS
STRANGE ILLNESSES, UNNATURAL DEATHS, THAT SORT OF THING.
AND SHE HEARD A REALLY GOOD STORY ABOUT A DEMON THAT WAS SPOTTED LAST NIGHT.

Haha.
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE MARK, RIKUGOU-SAN.
...AND? IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A CERTAIN TENGU, WOULD IT?
AND IT SEEMS THAT THAT DEMON WAS INVOLVED IN THE JAILBREAK WE HEARD ABOUT EARLIER
OH WELL, THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT THAT JUST YET
WHY IS THAT?
OUR FRIENDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN LOOK,
BUT WE DO OUR INFORMATION SEARCHING BEHIND THE SCENES
hiss
OOOH LOOK WHO IT IS!
THE CONSTABLE OF THE HACCHOUBORI DISTRICT~!!

A narcotic?
Opium that's

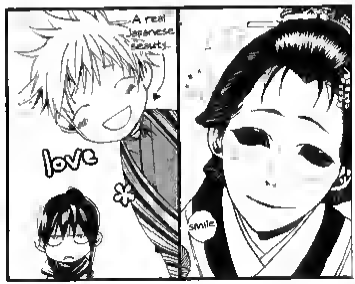
I DON'T SEE THE SUPER-NATURAL CONNECTION.
SO THE GUY WHO GOT KILLED AT THE NAITOU SHINJUKU HAD IT COMING TO HIM.

LATELY I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT PEOPLE SEEING FOXFIRE - IT'S ALL VERY, VERY UNUSUAL.
ISN'T THAT A PRE-MATURE JUDGE-MENT?

ACCORDING TO THE DOCTORS GOSSIP, AN ESCAPED CRIMINAL WILL NATURALLY HEAD BACK TO THE OPIUM DENS
THE MURDER VICTIM WAS ALSO A BLACK MARKET OPIUM SMUGGLER.
AND THE YAKUZA ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S FAVORITE TARGET. YOU KNO

WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE?
THIS SKEPTICAL LADY AND MYSELF CAN SEARCH THIS AREA.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
WHY DON'T WE SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS?
tap
OH, BUT AREN'T YOU A LITTLE WORRIED LEAVING ALL OF THIS DEMON BUSINESS TO CHANCE?
I'm not going anywhere without Shinshu.
Abso-lutely not!
I can't leave Shinshu on her own!
Which is exactly why I think it would be a bad idea to split up!
...Well of course I am!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!
His sister!


A real Japanese beauty.
love
smile

IF SHE NEEDS SOMEONE TO KEEP HER COMPANY,
THEN MY BENI-CHAN CAN STAY WITH HER
SHE'S MY SISTER, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

WHY, MY SISTER MIGHT EVEN BE BETTER THAN YOU

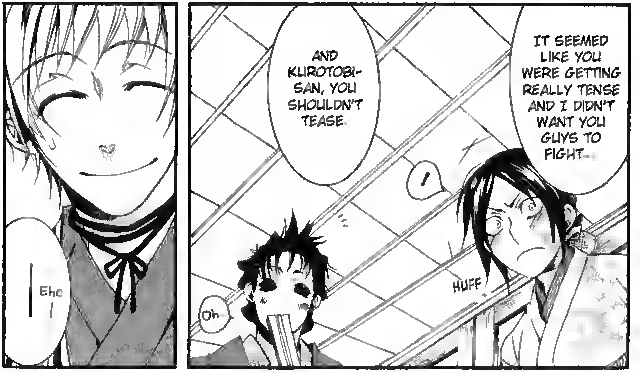
!

ARE YOU AFRAID SHE WON'T BE WELL GUARDED?
AS FAR AS SKILL ISN'T THERE ENOUGH RIGHT HERE?

surprise

‹ SFX: Clap ›

well you were glaring...
Ehehe
you scared me!!
loud heart-beat
loud heart-beat
Wh-
What are you doing?


Ehe
Oh
AND KUROTOBI-SAN, YOU SHOULDN'T TEASE.
HUFF
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE GETTING REALLY TENSE AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU GUYS TO FIGHT...

Oh, boy.
HE SEEMS NICE AT FIRST, BUT HE'S REALLY VERY CHILDISH.
OH? ME?
TEE ☆ HEE
nod nod
nod nod
TSURUUME OUGHT TO FIND IT EASY TO RELATE TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT...
Maybe she's just too easy to tease.
He kinda reminds me of Shinonome...
tap tap
Ah...
Don't worry!
Don't worry!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, WE'LL GO OUT AND LOOK.
WHATEVER.
.....
OH?
ALRIGHT, NOW THAT'S SETTLED.
OKAY...
SINCE WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A CLEAR OBJECTIVE, WE'LL HAVE TO START KIND OF ROUGHLY
SO WE'LL GO ASK AROUND TOWN FOR ANY INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TENGU.
I can't believe the two of them can go anywhere together
?
Banten
Heaven
JUST LEAVE IT TO US!

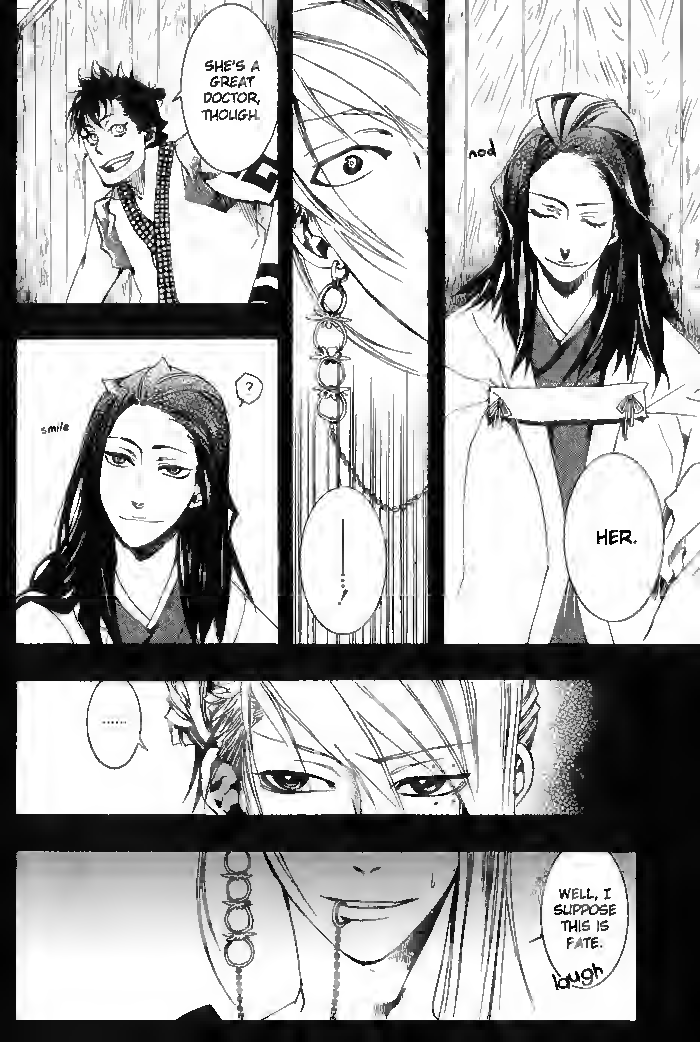
I TOOK CARE OF THOSE GUYS.
WHEN THEY RAN, I TOOK THE MONEY. PIECE OF CAKE.
Bwa HA HA HA HA HA
NOISY
SPLASH
NOISY
I'VE GOT IT ALL TAKEN CARE OF!! EVERYTHING'S COOL!
I TOLD YA!!
WAY TO GO, SUSU-TAKE!
BUT... WASN'T THAT KIND OF RECKLESS? WON'T THEY TRY TO GET BACK AT YOU?
NOISY
This is so stupid.
HA HA HA!
YEAH RIGHT, NOT IF THEIR BALLS ARE AS SMALL AS THEIR WALLETS
OI, TAKE, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING AROUND AT NIGHT EITHER.
NOISY
HA!
DON'T BE STUPID!
YEAH, BUT WITH THOSE GUYS FROM HEAVEN HANGING AROUND, ALL KINDS OF WEIRD SHIT HAS BEEN HAPPENING.
YOU KNOW THOSE DEMONS HAVE THEIR HANDS IN EVERYTHING.
IT'S OBVIOUSLY A CURSE!
NO WAY, THOSE GUYS AIN'T INVOLVED IN THIS.
AM I RIGHT?
HUH?

slam
tch
OH, SHUT THE HELL UP
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS IS MY BUSINESS.
It's none of your business Susutake!
You wanna die? ☆What do you know?
AM I RIGHT?
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN YOU WANT,
...CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE, EH?

YEAH, RIGHT.
SO WHY DON'T YOU COVER UP THAT ARM OF YOURS?
COME ON!
I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING SO SPILL IT!!
wag
Grrrrr
OH?
THIS?
THERE'RE PLENTY OF EXILES FROM OSAKA TO EDO WHO HAVE TATTOOS LIKE ME
THAT'S ENOUGH. I DIDN'T COME TO SOCIALISE
JUST TELL ME IF YOU'VE SEEN TSUYU-KUSA.
IF I GOT TO DO IT MYSELF, WHAT WOULD I WRITE...
SOMETHING THAT SHOWS OFF "THE REAL ME"...
That's certain death
A movie this would suit me.
WITH JOKES LIKE THAT NO WONDER YOU'RE AN EXILE!

• < TN: The kanji text is a pun on the phrase yoroshiku meaning yours truly but the shi in shiku is intentionally written with the wrong kanji to resemble shikuhakku meaning trouble >

WHAT'S THIS NOW?
I GUESS HE PROBABLY WASN'T THE DEMON INVOLVED WITH THAT MURDER CASE
WHO KNOWS.
TSUYUKUSA? YOU MEAN THAT BRATTY KID?
AND HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE ABOUT SOMETHING CONCERNING OUR KIND?
SOMEBODY GOT KILLED BEHIND SOME SHOP, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. BUT THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
YOU KNOW, THE ESCAPED CRIMINAL.
THE CRIMINAL IS...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT ESCAPED CRIMINAL.
BE-CAUSE...
YEAH...


SHE'S A GREAT DOCTOR, THOUGH.
nod
HER.
!!!
?
smile
.....
WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS IS FATE.
laugh

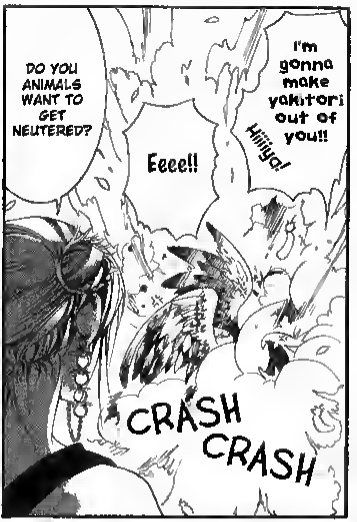
What did you say?
...Who is she to you?
IT'S MY JOB TO PREPARE MEDICINES.
THERE'S A LARGE MARKET FOR MY SURGICAL ANAES-THETICS
AND ONE OF MY PAINKILLING MEDICATIONS
WAS STOLEN BY A LOCAL MAN
PAIN-KILLERS
...OPIUM?
APPARENTLY THE MAN SOLD THE DRUGS, BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT
IT WAS ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING, BUT I WAS STILL ARRESTED BY THE POLICE

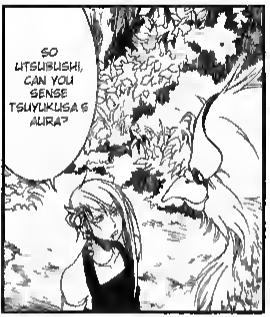
I WAS REALLY IN A PINCH SO IT'S A GOOD THING I FOUND 'IM.
oh baby!! When you talk to me like that, I can't say no!!
SO YOU GOT SUCKED INTO HER PROBLEMS.
A CURSE? SO THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING AROUND TOWN, HUH?
DID YOU HEAR THE RUMOR THAT HE GOT CURSED BY A FOX SPIRIT?
.....
SOMEBODY KILLED THE GUY WHO STOLE THE STUFF
YAKUZA RUN THE DRUG TRADE, SO MAYBE HE RAN INTO TROUBLE WITH THEM.
SO SOME GUY STEALS THIS QUACK DOCTOR'S OPIUM STASH AND GETS HIMSELF KILLED...
ANYWAY, I GUESS THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TSUYUKUSA....
SOUNDS MORE LIKE HUMAN GREED THAN A FOX DEMON'S CURSE.
BUT...

AND IF YOU'RE THE ESCAPED CRIMINAL YOU SHOULDN'T STAY HERE SOONER OR LATER, THEY'LL FIND YOU!
....ALRIGHT. COME ON.
SO YOU WANNA FIND YOUR BRATTY LITTLE BUDDY HUH? NEED SOME HELP?
wag
Aren't you hesitating a little, Take..?
LET'S GO.
Hey! Where are we going!?
HUH?
RIGHT...
HEY, GUYS, I'M OUTTA HERE!
.....
Ha ha ha ha!
OR DIE!
BRING BACK SOME SAKE!
A ha ha ha!
!

FLAP
FLAP
...U-TSU-BU-SHI!!
FLAP
THAT IS ONE BIG-ASS BIRD!
O
GHMP
SO ARE YOU A DEMON TOO?

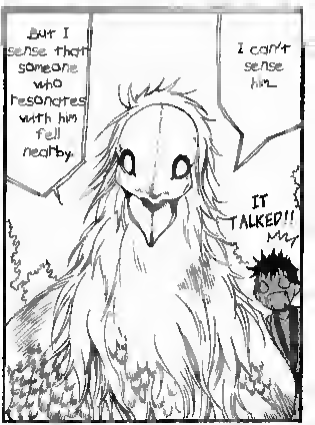
silence
HE'D REALLY DO IT
freeze
HE'D REALLY DO IT
THAT'S BETTER.


DO YOU ANIMALS WANT TO GET NEUTERED?
I'm gonna make yakitori out of you!!
Hiiiiya!
Eeee!!
CRASH
CRASH

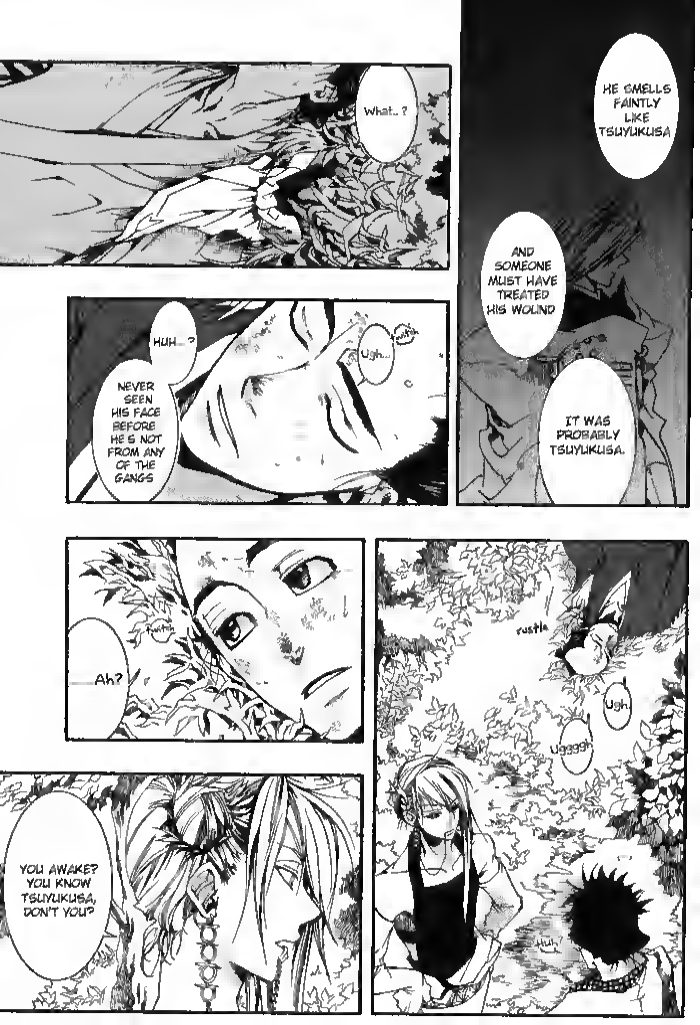

SO UTSUBUSHI, CAN YOU SENSE TSUYUKUSA'S AURA?

follow me.

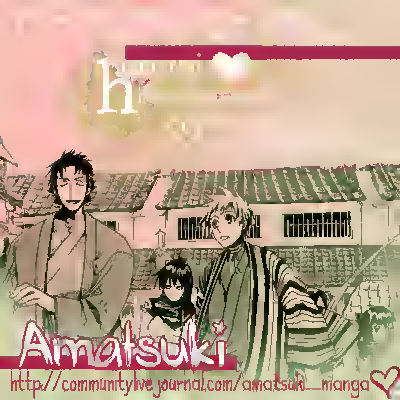
RESONATES? WHERE?


But I sense that someone who resonates with him fell nearby.
I can't sense him.
IT TALKED!!

A HUMAN

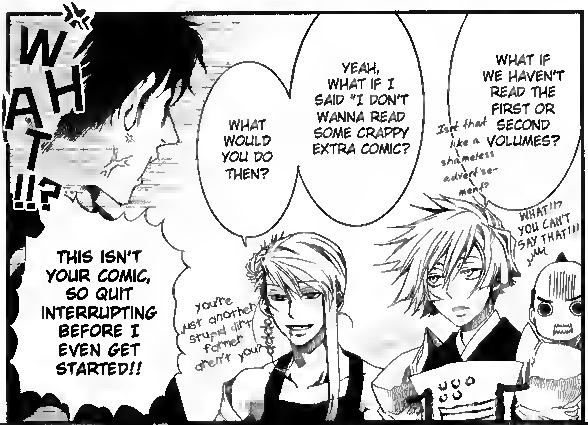

What..?
HE SMELLS FAINTLY LIKE TSUYUKUSA
AND SOMEONE MUST HAVE TREATED HIS WOUND
IT WAS PROBABLY TSUYUKUSA.
HUH...?
Ugh...
NEVER SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE HE'S NOT FROM ANY OF THE GANGS
Ah?
rustle
Ugh.
Ugggh
Huh?
YOU AWAKE? YOU KNOW TSUYUKUSA, DON'T YOU?

(Serialised in Monthly Comic Zero Sum from October 2005 ~ February 2006)


Amatsuki
http://communitylive.journal.com/amatsuki_manga

Volume 3 Thank You Extra Comic

YEAH, KOSEN-SAN, WHATEVER...
JUVENILE DELINQUENT
THIS IS KOSEN-KUN! HE'S GOING TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER FOR THIS CHAPTER!
MAIN CHARACTER
Make sure you've read Volume 2!!
And now for the extra comic!


WHAT!!?
THIS ISN'T YOUR COMIC, SO QUIT INTERRUPTING BEFORE I EVEN GET STARTED!!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?
YEAH, WHAT IF I SAID "I DON'T WANNA READ SOME CRAPPY EXTRA COMIC?
WHAT IF WE HAVEN'T READ THE FIRST OR SECOND VOLUMES?
Isn't that like a shameless advertisement?
WHAT!!? YOU CAN'T SAY THAT!!!
you're just another stupid filler chapter, aren't you?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS WORTHLESS.
YOU MUST BE SHAMON-DONO.
I'M THE THIRD SON OF KINOMOTO MASAHARU.
MY NAME IS KOSEN. I WAS SENT HERE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF GANKEI-SAMA FROM SHUISOUJI TEMPLE.

Side Story: The Twilight Flowers Sleep

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR THE THIRD SON OF A SAMURAI. HE'S JUST A BURDEN. HE'S USUALLY ADOPTED OUT TO ANOTHER FAMILY.
I'M 16.
SIGH
I MAY ONLY BE AN INEXPERIENCED NOVICE WHO ONLY HAD HIS LONG HAIR CUT OFF YESTERDAY, BUT...
SO I DECIDED TO BECOME A MONK.

chirp
chirp
chirp
Side Story: The Twilight Flower's Sleep

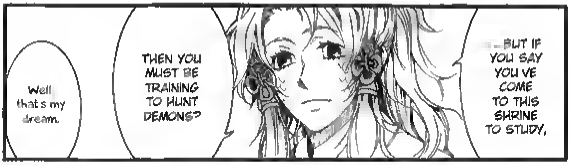
I SAW A RARE BIRD OVER THERE, SO I
IS THAT SO? FORGIVE ME.
Hey!
How did you get in here!? This area is off limits to the public!
ARE THOSE SCALES ON HER FACE FROM A DEMON'S CURSE?
Surprise
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SPELLS AND THINGS LIKE THAT COME TO THIS SHRINE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SEEKING HELP
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WAYS PEOPLE CAN SUFFER SPIRIT POSSESSION, MYSTERIOUS DISTURBANCES, CURSES, AND MORE.

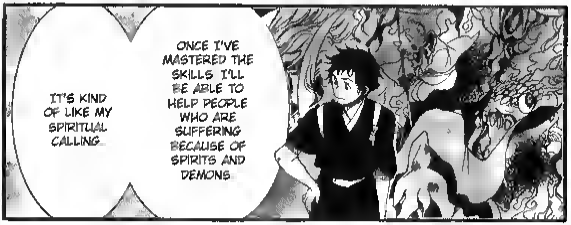
LOSE ALL SENSE OF SELF...
MOST PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SPIRIT POSSESSION...
BUT...
AND IN RARE CASES, THE POSSESSION CAN BE INHERITED WITHIN A FAMILY LINE, SO THE DEMON LIVES INSIDE THEIR IMPURE BODIES...
UM... YOU'RE NOT POSSESSED, ARE YOU?
IMPURE PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE SANCTUARY!!
I'LL BE FORCED TO...
...AND WHAT IF I AM?

〈 Note Don = sound effect for something stupid 〉

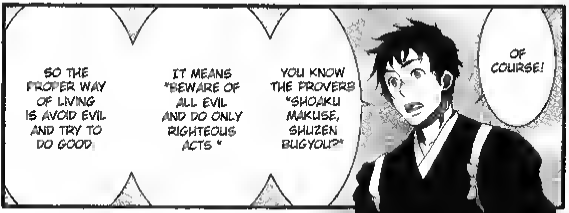
Hey why are you laughing at me!? Damn it !!
Look, I'm sorry okay!? I'm just an apprentice! I can't do anything about it!!
What's with that face!? I'm sorry if it's an inconvinience but we've got rituals going on this week!!!
What!?

LOTS OF PEOPLE COME HERE TO STUDY, SO I'M REALLY NOT ALL THAT IMPRESSIVE...
UM... IT'S KOSEN.
BUT THIS IS THE MOST FAMOUS SHRINE IN THE COUNTRY...
YOU'RE STILL NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU?
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOURSELF WOULD COME HERE IN SEARCH OF WISDOM.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
Hehe.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE ABOUT ABOUT YOU BECOMING AN EXORCIST! WHAT I WANT IS FOR YOU TO GROW UP AND PROCEED WITH THE ADOPTION PLANS!!
ARE YOU INSANE!? HOW CAN YOU LET YOURSELF GET SO CARRIED AWAY!?
SAIJIROU!
BESIDES, I'M STILL JUST A TRAINEE UNTIL I FINISH MY STUDIES AND LEAVE THIS MOUNTAIN
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BELIEVE IN ME!!? I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE SPIRITS LIKE I CAN, BUT I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOU!!
BUT I ALSO DON'T WANT YOU TO CONTROL MY WHOLE LIFE!!


Well that's my dream.
THEN YOU MUST BE TRAINING TO HUNT DEMONS?
...BUT IF YOU SAY YOU'VE COME TO THIS SHRINE TO STUDY,


IT'S KIND OF LIKE MY SPIRITUAL CALLING.
ONCE I'VE MASTERED THE SKILLS I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF SPIRITS AND DEMONS.

IS YOUR CALLING?
KILLING DEMONS—


SO THE PROPER WAY OF LIVING IS AVOID EVIL AND TRY TO DO GOOD.
IT MEANS "BEWARE OF ALL EVIL AND DO ONLY RIGHTEOUS ACTS."
YOU KNOW THE PROVERB "SHOAKU MAKUSE, SHUZEN BUGYOU!?"
OF COURSE!

THE HONORABLE MONK KOSEN IS WELL VERSED IN HIS SCRIPTURES!
...I SEE...
YOU CAN STOP WITH THE "HONORABLE MONK" STUFF...
I'M JUST A NOVICE
COUGH
...BUT I DO TRY TO STUDY TWICE AS HARD AS ANYONE ELSE...
SHYER
AHHHH~
I SEE YOU HAVE A VERY STRONG MIND
I'M SURE YOUR TEACHERS WERE SORRY TO LET YOU GO
I LEFT GANKEI-SAN TO STUDY DEMON HUNTING HERE...
WELL...
AND I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN APPRENTICE...

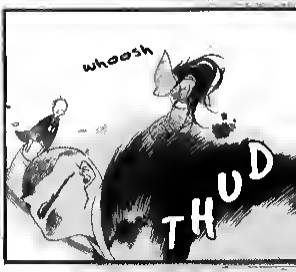
wobble
wobble
You're not drunk, are you?
Uh?
Oh no, of course not!
Um
I'm not drunk!
crash
wobble
wobble
THUD
crash
wah!
I REMEMBER NOW
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT
WOW, SO A KID LIKE YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY UP HERE, HUH?
WELL, I'M NO GOOD AT THIS KIND OF STUFF, SO JUST COME ON IN!

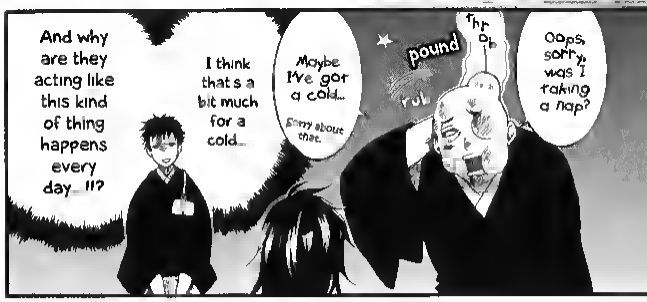
Where am I!?
Well don't just stand there, give me a hand!

chirp
chirp
chirp

crash
CRASH
crash
kick
kick
kick
4-HIT COMBO!
VICTORY
HIT!
HIT!
HIT!

Or is it the sleep of death!?
silence
ARE YOU AWAKE NOW SHAMON-SAMA?


whoosh
THUD

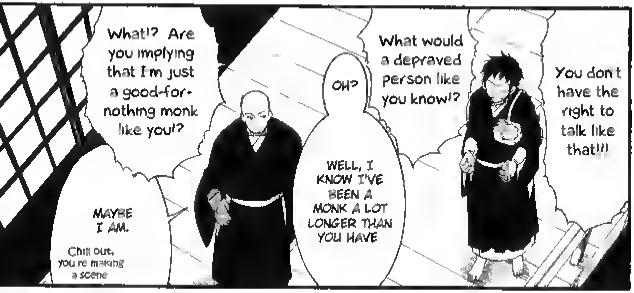

And why are they acting like this kind of thing happens every day...!!?
I think that's a bit much for a cold...
Maybe I've got a cold...
Sorry about that.
pound
run
Oops, sorry, was I taking a nap?

THANKS FOR WAKING ME UP, KUCHIHA. YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN HERE.
.....
...THIS GIRL...
AHH, IT'S NOTHING.
SOMETIMES I NEED A LITTLE NUDGE TO GET UP WHEN I'VE BEEN DRINKING.
AND THAT ALWAYS DOES THE TRICK.
BUT...
ONE OF THESE DAYS IT'S PROBABLY GONNA KILL ME...
...I'M...
I HEARD HOW GREAT THIS PLACE WAS AND I DREAMED ABOUT COMING HERE. BUT IT'S LIKE THIS...
KIND OF DISAPPOINTED

There's dust all over the temple! This is a place of corruption and depravity!!
And you're living together with a little girl!
If people knew you were drinking sake here it would be a disgrace!
We should be living according to the principles of meditation!
Have you fallen prey to delusion!?
To fight evil you have to be pious! What is all of this!!?
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GOOD AT MEMORISING SCRIPTURES
DELUSION, MEDITATION...

DO YOU KNOW THAT ONE?
gulp
.....!!

WELL, SINCE YOU KNOW THEM BY HEART, THEN DON'T YOU KNOW THE BIT WHERE IT SAYS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RESPECT YOUR TEACHERS?

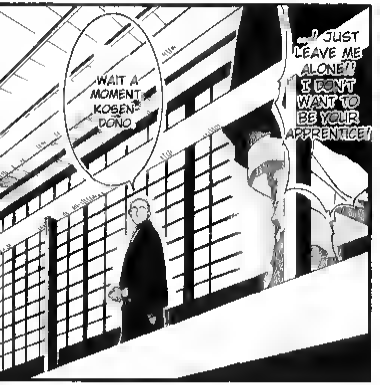

What!? Are you implying that I'm just a good-for-nothing monk like you!?
MAYBE I AM.
Chill out, you're making a scene
OH?
WELL, I KNOW I'VE BEEN A MONK A LOT LONGER THAN YOU HAVE
What would a depraved person like you know!?
You don't have the right to talk like that!!

I HAVE AN ABILITY THAT MY BROTHERS DON'T HAVE!
I'M NOT ANY LESS THAN MY BROTHERS!
I WANT PEOPLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ME FOR WHAT I CAN DO!
Then tell me this!
What is the true essence of Zen!?

I WON'T LIVE IN MY BROTHERS' SHADOW FOREVER!!
scratch scratch
HMM...
I GUESS ZEN IS LIKE A BROKEN BOWL, ISN'T IT?
IT PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE.
IT'S JUST A JOB.
I heard people speak very highly of your piety and your skills as a demon hunter - that's why I came here
But what kind of place is this ?
a ha ha ha!
EXORCISING SPIRITS ISN'T SOMETHING HOLY!
Don't be an idiot! Act seriously!!
You would compare Zen to something like THAT!!?
what...?
!?

ISN'T ZEN JUST A MEANS TO AN END?
IT'S A TOOL, LIKE A BOWL OR A PAIR OF SANDALS
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T CLOSE YOUR MIND TO OTHER THINGS
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BELIEVING IN SOMETHING

WASN'T THAT WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOKS?
AND YOU SHOULDN'T USE A TOOL SO ROUGHLY THAT IT BREAKS

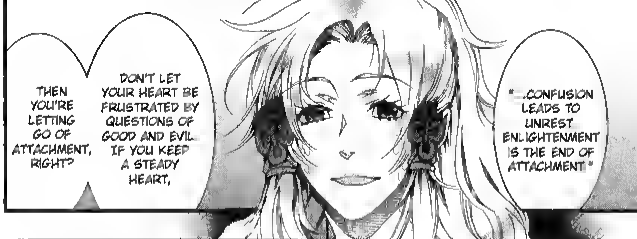

WAIT A MOMENT, KOSEN-DONO
...! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!! I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR APPRENTICE!

KOSEN-DONO WHY IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO BECOME A MONK?
...!!!

"THE PINE TREE BLOOMS ONLY ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS BUT AS LONG AS THE COMMON WEEDS FLOWER, IT IS SPRING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!"
"... CONFUSION LEADS TO UNREST ENLIGHTENMENT IS THE END OF ATTACHMENT."
GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
I'LL EVEN FORWARD YOUR REFERRAL LETTER FROM GANKEI-DONO.
IF YOU JUST WANT TO KILL DEMONS, THERE ARE BETTER PLACES YOU COULD GO. AND THAT'S OKAY.
tura

OH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. DON'T WORRY, I'M COMING
door opening
SHA-MON-SAMA?
nod nod
running away

BUT I THINK YOU'RE WONDERFUL, SHAMON-SAMA
MAN
SIGH
MAYBE I WAS TOO ROUGH ON HIM...
BEFORE I MET YOU, I WAS THE SAME WAY AS THAT KID.
NAHH, AN ASCETIC MONK IS LIKE A BRATTY KID
Ahahaha!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T GET IT.
HEY,
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA
?
NEITHER OF THEM HAS BEEN OUT IN THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE LIFE, SO THEY PREACH ABOUT STUFF THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT

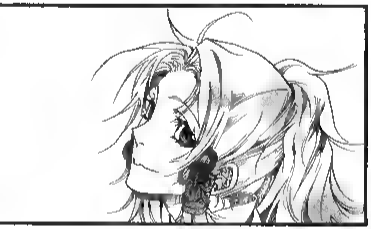

"...CONFUSION LEADS TO UNREST. ENLIGHTENMENT IS THE END OF ATTACHMENT."
DON'T LET YOUR HEART BE FRUSTRATED BY QUESTIONS OF GOOD AND EVIL. IF YOU KEEP A STEADY HEART,
THEN YOU'RE LETTING GO OF ATTACHMENT, RIGHT?

IT MEANS THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE STRAIGHTLACED AND PROPER LIKE THE PINE TREE AND LIKE TO SPEND ALL OF THEIR TIME STUDYING. AND SOME PEOPLE JUST WANT TO PLAY LIKE IT'S SPRINGTIME
SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THERE ARE TWO APPROACHES TO LIFE
SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? ♪
tap
Uwaah!!
Surprise

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE MENTIONED THE PINE TREE, TOO. RIGHT? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT?

WAAH!!!
S. Sasaki-sama?!!
Why is he here?!
OH, I THOUGHT I'D JUST STOP BY FOR A CHAT ♡
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SASAKI-SAMA,

Ah...
Um aren't you...

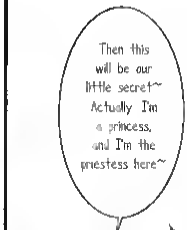


OH, YES.
AND EVERYONE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
She must be someone the master forbids she to be near.
Sweat
Sweat

Princess, you're telling him too much! He's just a naive young boy!
Ooh. really? I guess I'm too careless.
sigh
Oh my
Yah

Well just between you and me I'm the illegitimate child of a military official...
The Princess's background is a matter of absolute secrecy!!!
Not that we can't trust a monk like yourself,
But not a word of this to anyone!!!
ST
OP
Sparkle

ah
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
Kyaaa


Then this will be our little secret~ Actually I'm a princess, and I'm the priestess here~
giggle

ASSHOLE!
But between you and me,
giggle
giggle

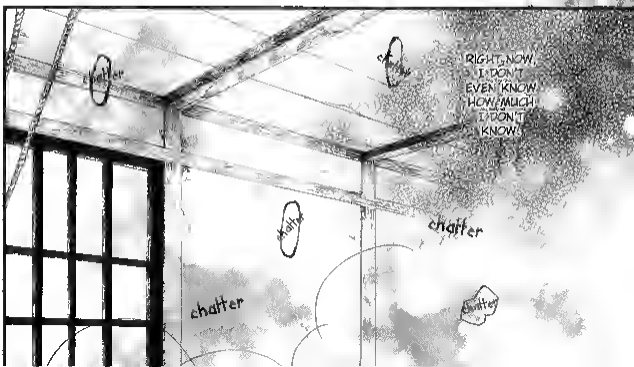
Then out of all the people in this world I'm probably the farthest from being enlightened~
If the true meaning of Zen is in those words I mentioned before,

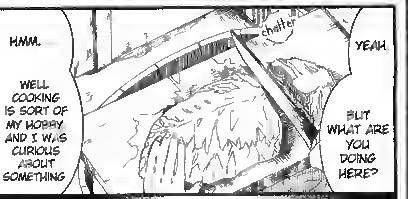
!
shock

KOSEN-DONO, WHY IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO BECOME A MONK?
THE WAY I'VE BEEN DOING IT...
IS WRONG.
I'VE READ WHO KNOWS HOW MANY BOOKS, MEMORISING EVERY WORD,
BUT I'M STILL INEXPERIENCED AND FULL OF CONFUSING FEELINGS...
I GUESS...
I'M JUST A LOSER AFTER ALL...
IF YOU'RE THAT ASHAMED...
THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE CAN BE DANGEROUS
< sfx: rustle >

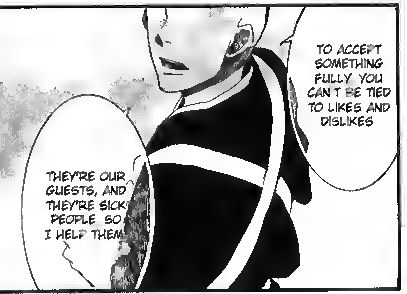
flap
flap
...A BIRD?

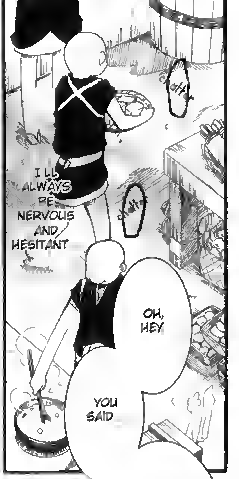
OF YOUR OWN INEXPERIENCE, AND YOU JUST GIVE UP...
YOU'LL FORGET WHO YOU ARE.


chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH I DON'T KNOW!


HMM.
WELL COOKING IS SORT OF MY HOBBY AND I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING
chatter
YEAH.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THERE'S STILL A BATTLE INSIDE ME.
I WANTED TO SEE THE MONK WHO PEOPLE SAY IS SO KIND TO THE SPIRIT POSSESSED.
YOU DON'T HATE SOMEONE POSSESSED BY THE DOG GOD?


TO ACCEPT SOMETHING FULLY YOU CAN'T BE TIED TO LIKES AND DISLIKES
THEY'RE OUR GUESTS, AND THEY'RE SICK PEOPLE SO I HELP THEM.


I'LL ALWAYS BE NERVOUS AND HESITANT
chatter
OH, HEY.
YOU SAID

YOU CLEANED UP KUCHIHA'S ROOM, RIGHT?
chatter
chatter

YOU'RE SO MATURE, JUST LIKE A MONK
IS THAT SO?
THE PRIESTESS IS KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH INTO BEING A HERO... BECAUSE YOU'RE NEVER ALONE
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
chatter
chatter
chatter
steam
IT'S KIND OF ANNOYING
Ooooh this tastes good
What's this flavoring?
Ahaha, the secret ingredient is plum vinegar!!
Eh!?
Try this one!

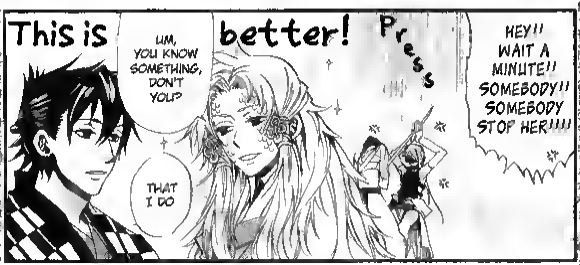
Amatsu kiato gaki
.....
.....
.....

shudder

< sfx: glare >

KUCHIHA!!!!
OMG she ripped the panel!!!!
rip
rip
rip
CRUSH
hahahahaha
STILL PISSED THAT I MADE IT ONTO THE COVER OF VOLUME 3?

COME ON, IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE...
WELL...MAYBE IF YOU DID A LITTLE FAN SERVICE FOR THE MALE READERS YOU COULD GENERATE SOME SEX APPEAL...
whoosh
a sense


This is better!
Press
UM, YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?
THAT I DO
HEY!! WAIT A MINUTE!! SOMEBODY!! SOMEBODY STOP HER!!!!

thump
whoosh
CRASH
gasp
I want to be in it! Even a bit part!!
And it's a story that wasn't in the magazine or the special book! It's straight from the author to you!!!
OMG!!
Amatsuki got made into a drama CD!!
Point

For more information look on the advetising insert in this book!
F
uck
Fu
bang
Fu
punch
BUT WHAT IF THE ADVERTISE-MENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRINTED UP?
I have no idea!!!
OH? SO WHAT ARE THE DETAILS?
Slam
Eel
Ear
Punch
PUNCH
grab
crash
That's the truth!!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER! COME ON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOKI. YOU DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER
Then Ichi-jinsha's website is.
UMMM
.....

Note: The details will actually be in the advertising insert.
Is this a famous painting?
Are you that dumb!!
Uh
Huh? I didn't know that!
kyaaaaaa
YOU IDIOT! They can just look in the magazine!
Well, we'll see you in Volume 4!
thud
Thank you so much for the letters, chocolates and presents!
Wait! They could send a letter, right!!?
Pete

平八は彼らの運命を変えることができるのか――――。

今秋発売予定!!

B6判/定価580円(税込)

哀しい幕引きを迎えようとする、露草と今様。鴇時は、そして、

あまつき4

ZERO-SUM COMICS

おまつき

3

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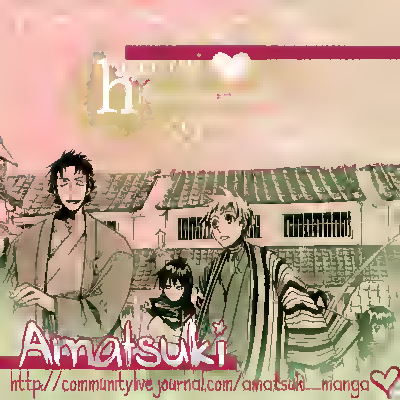
Amatsuki
http://community.livejournal.com/amatsuki_manga

Translator's Notes:

(Put on a separate page because they're important :D and squashing them onto the pages was making the editor feel guilty for crowding Takayama-sensei's pretty layouts.)

Page 1

1 Kosen is an honorary Buddhist name.
2 Japan had a law of primogeniture where the first son inherited the family land and title. It was good to have a second son as a backup heir, but three sons would be hard to support.
3 Samurai boys would wear a topknot, while monks shaved their heads.

Page 177

1 Kosen's given name is Saburou, a common name which literally means "third son."

Page 178

1 When Kosen says "Have you fallen prey to delusion!?", he literally says "has your blown hair sword become dulled?" That's from a Zen proverb about a sword so sharp it can cut a hair that blows across it - it's a metaphor for being able to cut through illusions.
2 "We should be living according to the principles of meditation!" translated literally is "the heart of returning to one's true home" which is a Buddhist expression for meditation.

Page 179

1 Shamon's line "I guess Zen is like a broken bowl, isn't it?" refers to a poem by the monk Tosu that goes something like "I have only a worn out robe and a broken bowl, but I'm peaceful and free. I eat when I'm hungry, I drink when I'm thirsty, and I don't pay attention to the sounds of the world." Well, I forget exactly how it goes, but you get the idea.

Page 180

1 Kuchiba is posing like the painting "Liberty Leading the People" by Eugene Delacroix.